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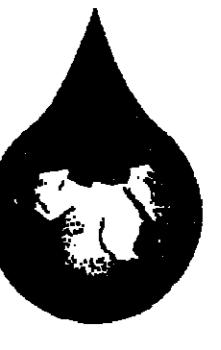
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## Way clear for declaration of ceasefire

# Iran agrees to direct talks

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 7. (Reuter): Iran agreed today to direct talks with Iraq on ending the Gulf war apparently clearing the way for a ceasefire which Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said could be announced tomorrow or Tuesday.

Iran's decision followed a statement yesterday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that Iraq would accept direct talks after a truce. Up until then Iraq had insisted that peace talks take place before a ceasefire.

The two developments were major breakthroughs in peace negotiations which after being stalled for two weeks, leaped forward in a weekend of intense activity at the United Nations.

### Effect

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati announced his country's agreement to direct talks following a ceasefire after one of several meetings with Perez de Cuellar.

Immediately before today's key meeting at which Iran announced its agreement, the secretary-general had told report-

ers a ceasefire could go into effect in two weeks if he could get Iran and Iraq to agree on the issue of face-to-face talks.

Asked when an announcement of a ceasefire might be made, he replied: "It could be either tomorrow or day after tomorrow if there is agreement from both sides."

While hectic diplomatic activity went on at UN headquarters in New York, there was a lull in fighting as both sides anticipated a truce in an eight-year-war which has claimed more than a million lives.

Iran and Iraq reported only relatively minor clashes on the weekend.

### Positive

The breakthrough was warmly welcomed by the US State Department.

"We feel the Iraqi move was a positive step. It seemed to have moved things along. And obviously things are playing out. It's up to the secretary-general to work out the details, and we fully support his efforts," a State Department spokesman said.

But a US Defence Department spokesman cautioned that the



Perez de Cuellar

27-ship American naval task-force patrolling the Gulf would not be reduced until the fighting was completely halted.

The negotiations have been based on Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal to international borders and exchanges of prisoners of war and talks about a final peace settlement.

Iran and Iraq have been jockeying for position over the sequence of events.

The negotiations came to life on July 18 when Iran agreed to the resolution, which Iraq had accepted when it was first passed

a year ago.

For the past two weeks the talks had inch forward but when Iraq announced it was no longer insisting on direct talks before a ceasefire, Perez de Cuellar cut short a weekend break to rush back to UN headquarters yesterday.

Velayati told reporters, who have been camped outside the UN for the past two days, that the level of talks and when and where they take place will be decided by the secretary-general.

Perez de Cuellar has estimated about 250 UN observers will be needed to supervise a ceasefire.

He has already received a report on the mechanics of a ceasefire from a UN military team which visited the two countries in July.

The New York Times said yesterday that 24 of 30 countries asked to take part in a peacekeeping force had agreed. The paper said the countries included Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Ghana, Fiji, Australia, Japan, Hungary and Turkey.

A UN spokesman announced the Security Council would hold private consultations later in the day.

## V.P. Singh and Rama Rao to head alliance

# Indian opposition fails to resolve leadership issue

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (UPI): Former Finance Minister V.P. Singh and N.T. Rama Rao, the film star-turned-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state today were chosen to head an opposition alliance against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the next general elections.

"The aspiration of the people is for the closer co-operation of the opposition parties," said Singh, who was expelled from the Congress (I) Party in June 1987 for criticising Rajiv's handling of corruption allegations.

However, the selection of both Singh and Rao appeared to indicate that senior members of the seven-party national front were unable to resolve differen-

ces over the alliance's leadership and were forced to compromise.

The divisions over leadership and other questions have led many observers to question whether the coalition will survive to contest general elections that must be held before the end of next year.

### Oppose

The alliance would be the first to oppose the Congress (I) Party in nationwide polls since a coalition led by the rightist Janata Party defeated it in 1977.

However, the Janata-led government collapsed from infighting after 18 months in power.

Singh, who won an important test of strength over the Congress (I) Party in a June parliamentary by-election, was selected as

the "convenor" of the national front and the flamboyant Rao, who parlayed his success in playing Hindu gods in films into a political career, was chosen as its chairman.

"Here is the alternative to the Congress (I)," said Rao introducing his allies at a press conference today, "dedicated to uplifting the glory and uprooting the corruption of India."

Leaders of the seven opposition groups said the front, to be formally inaugurated on Sept 16, would soon announce a 60-point platform.

The new alliance brings together seven parties that have widely diverse bases of support, but are largely moderate in their views.

## 16 killed in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Aug 7. (AP): Heavy fighting between Indian troops and Tamil rebels claimed 10 lives in northern Sri Lanka today, an Indian spokeswoman said.

According to a spokeswoman for the Indian high commission, the clash took place near Vavuniya, 217 Kilometres (135 miles) northeast of Colombo. She said eight Tamil rebels and two Indian soldiers were killed.

Three Indian soldiers also were critically injured, she said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In central and southern Sri Lanka, Sinhalese extremists shot and killed six people during the weekend, according to the Sri Lankan military command.

The Sri Lankan command said one of the six victims of Sinhalese attacks included a Sinhalese Army lieutenant who was on home leave in Kulinipitiya, 60 Kilometres (37 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Five other people were killed in the Sinhalese heartland along the island nation's south coast. Police sources said all of them were government supporters or were thought to be police informers.

About 49,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in Sri Lanka as a peacekeeping force to try to end the Tamil insurrection against the Sinhalese-dominated government and enforce a peace plan.

Three cholera deaths were reported in the northern state of Punjab, UNI said, and three others died of gastro-enteritis in southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Since the outbreak was reported in early July, at least 6,226 people in the capital city of New Delhi have been admitted to hospitals suffering from suspected symptoms, the agency said. It said 818 of them had been diagnosed as suffering from cholera.

Health clinics have inoculated more than 2.8 million people against cholera, UNI said. So far, 202 people have died there.

A GROUP of people waiting at a bus stop in the Shuwaikh area were shot on Saturday night by young men driving their car at high speed.

The incident, which took place at around 10.00 pm was reported to the Shuwaikh Industrial police station.

Bystanders were stunned by the shooting. The car took a sharp turn towards the Khalidiya area seconds later.

One of the injured, a journalist, had an air gun pellet lodged in his arm.

He told the Arab Times that he was shocked by the shooting and to see blood flowing from his arm. He rushed to the Sabah Hospital where the pellet was removed.

He added that another bystander said a pellet pierced through his dishdash.

The notice, entitled employment notification, says that the British embassy has announced that Brunei needs 70,000 to 100,000 construction workers—both Muslims and non-Muslims of various trades.

"We never make such an announcement. It is inconceivable," Banks said. He said his office is authorised to issue visas "within certain clearly defined limits set by the government of Brunei."

The notice does not say where

## Palestinians may declare independence

# Hussein will recognise government-in-exile

KUWAIT has welcomed Iraq's acceptance of a ceasefire with Iran to be followed by direct peace talks, on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said yesterday that Kuwait praises the Iraqi move, made by President Saddam Hussein on Saturday and wishes to see peace prevail in the entire Arabian Gulf region.

"Kuwait while praising this honourable initiative originating from a spirit of responsibility, considers the move as an approach to the peace process and to rebuild bridges of trust among the peoples of the region to restore peace on the basis of Islamic fraternity and good neighbourliness," said a statement issued after the cabinet meeting.

The statement also praised the peace-making efforts of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and called on the permanent members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibility towards restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Rashed said Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed briefed the cabinet on last week's meetings in Baghdad of an Arab League committee assigned to follow up developments of the Iran-Iraq war.

The statement also praised the cabinet highly appreciated the outcome of the visit to the US by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, saying the trip enhanced Kuwait's international stature.

Rashed said the cabinet expressed belief that the visit had been of help to Kuwaiti and Arab interests.

During the official visit last month, Sheikh Saad had talks with US President Reagan, Vice-President George Bush and other top American officials.

Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa welcomed Iraq's "response to the efforts of the UN secretary-general to implement Security Council Resolution 598."

The embassy's consular office, which issues visas for Brunei, has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries about jobs and visas for Brunei. The office instructed all the inquirers to contact the Director of Immigration in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei.

"We get about a dozen calls a day and they ring us up at all hours," said the British Consul, Larry Banks.

"This is the third year in a row that such information has been circulated. I would say this is a false notice," said Banks.

The notice does not say where

(Continued on Page 2)

The King reiterated his belief that the PLO should be a "prime party" to any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said his decision, announced on July 31, to end 38 years of unity with the West Bank responded to repeated Palestinian and Arab demands.

It was in line with the 1974 Arab League summit in Rabat, which named the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, and with the 1982 Gaza summit, which called for an independent Palestinian state.

King Hussein said no further measures were envisaged at present. "Basically, we have covered all the areas that required attention," he said.

PLO officials say it will send a delegation led by executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas to Amman, probably on Thursday, to discuss Hussein's historic policy switch.

### Visit

Referring to the delegation, the King said: "We have nothing to say to the PLO. We will hear what they have to say to us."

He said the PLO would be granted diplomatic status in Jordan and its mission would be like that of any other embassy.

Hussein will fly to Syria tomorrow for a brief working visit and talks with President Hafez Al Assad, informed sources told KUNA this evening.

The former Territories Minister Marwan Dardir said that Jordan will retain some social, economic and legal links with the West Bank.

King Hussein transferred the remaining functions of the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Brunei job offers false

By Jadranka Porter

THE British embassy in Kuwait has dismissed as a scam a notice circulating in the country inviting applications and quoting too-good-to-be-true salaries for jobs in Brunei.

The embassy's consular office, which issues visas for Brunei, has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries about jobs and visas for Brunei. The office instructed all the inquirers to contact the Director of Immigration in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei.

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The notice does not say where

## Fate of Americans linked to Gulf war

# Some hostages in Iranian embassy

BEIRUT, Aug 7. (Agencies):

Some of the 16 foreign hostages held by extremist groups in Lebanon are being housed in the heavily fortified Iranian embassy in West Beirut, a newspaper said.

The source told Al Diyar that Terry Waite, the hostage negotiator and Archbishop of Canterbury special envoy who was kidnapped on Jan. 20, 1987 in west Beirut, was being held at the fortified Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Hossain Sheikholeslam, the newspaper said.

Some of the hostages have been in captivity for more than four years, and a variety of Muslim fundamentalist groups have claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

### Workers

The alleged abductors have demanded, among other things, that the United States pressure the Israeli government to withdraw its forces from a buffer zone in southern Lebanon and use its influence to secure the release of Arab prisoners incarcerated in Israel and elsewhere.

The Syrian source said the 16 captives were being kept in three locations: a hideout in Beirut's southern suburbs, the Iranian embassy in west Beirut, and the "Sheikh Abdullah Barracks" of the Hezbollah group near Baalbek, 52 miles (84 km) northeast of Beirut.

The source said the captives were being held by a branch of the Hezbollah "linked directly" to Iran, and said Sheikholeslam was personally involved in deciding where the captives would stay. Sheikholeslam had personally directed the transfer of some of the hostages from one place to another in cars registered to the Iranian embassy, the source said.

The Syrian official said the chances for obtaining freedom for three British hostages appeared to have improved following the recent thaw in Iranian-British relations. But the fate of the other captives, including nine Americans, "was linked to the Gulf war," he said.

Lebanese Interior Minister Dr Abdullah Al Rassi said today he expected the hostages to be released before the end of the year.

## Death toll reaches 858 in epidemic in India

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (AP): The nationwide death toll from cholera and gastro-enteritis reached at least 858 after the two diseases claimed 30 more lives, news reports said today.

Eleven deaths were reported in New Delhi, according to United News of India and Press Trust of India. At least 260 people in the capital have died of the waterborne diseases, the agencies said.

Thirty deaths were reported in Ahmedabad, about 650 Kilometres (400 miles) southwest of New Delhi, UNI said. So far, 202 people have died there.

Health clinics have inoculated more than 2.8 million people against cholera, UNI said.

In central and southern Sri Lanka, Sinhalese extremists shot and killed six people during the weekend, according to the Sri Lankan military command.

The Sri Lankan command said one of the six victims of Sinhalese attacks included a Sinhalese Army lieutenant who was on home leave in Kulinipitiya, 60 Kilometres (37 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Five other people were killed in the Sinhalese heartland along the island nation's south coast. Police sources said all of them were government supporters or were thought to be police informers.

About 49,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in Sri Lanka as a peacekeeping force to try to end the Tamil insurrection against the Sinhalese-dominated government and enforce a peace plan.

## INTERNATIONAL

Murphy meets Shamir

# Israel rejects plans for an independent Palestinian state

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug. 7. (Agencies): In a rare show of unity, left and right-wing ministers in Israel's coalition government joined today in rejecting Palestinian plans for an independent Arab state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As Israeli leaders met US envoy Richard Murphy for Middle East peace talks, Labour minister said Israeli policy would not be swayed by Jordan's handover of responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO or reported plans for a Palestinian state.

"Neither Jordan nor the Palestinians will dictate a unilateral solution," the Labour Party statement said.

### Decision

"Israel rejects out of hand any attempts to set up a new state and Israel absolutely rejects any attempt to create facts on the ground either through terror, violence or plans to set up a PLO state," it said.

The government has taken no decision on the Jordanian move nor on blueprints for an independent Arab state which have been

reported in the media over the past two days. But ministers leaving the weekly cabinet meeting said such a state was unacceptable.

Palestinians said the underground leaders in the occupied territories were about to declare statehood in a bid to make political gains from an eight-month-old uprising in which at least 248 Palestinians and four Israelis have died.

### Intolerance

Welfare and Employment Minister Moshe Katsav, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Bloc, told reporters: "It is imperative that... the PLO should not fill the vacuum left by Jordan and I am confident Israel's security forces are fully capable of preventing that."

The national religious party's Yosef Shapira called for the 1978 Camp David peace accords to be scrapped, leaving Israel free to annex the territory. Shamir has already rejected similar calls.

Murphy, US Assistant Secretary of State, met Shamir for two hours in talks that he

later called useful, and he appealed to Arabs and Israelis to begin urgent talks on a political settlement.

Palestinians said the under-ground leaders in the occupied territories were about to declare statehood in a bid to make political gains from an eight-month-old uprising in which at least 248 Palestinians and four Israelis have died.

He would not comment on the Palestinian independence call other than to say that Palestinians must be involved in peace talks at every stage.

No major incidents were reported in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite a call by leaders of the uprising to stage massive demonstrations during Murphy's visit.

### Demands

Shamir said in an interview published today in London that Israel will not annex the West Bank and will not negotiate with the PLO.

In an interview with the Observer newspaper, Shamir was quoted as rejecting demands from his right-wing supporters for annexation as a solution to

the problem of the occupied territories on grounds it would violate the 1978 Camp David agreement.

The Camp David accord envisages an interim period of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank followed by negotiations for a final settlement.

"We say we are committed to this agreement," Shamir was quoted as saying. "The permanent status of these territories (the West Bank) is a separate subject for negotiations. We are ready to negotiate with the Palestinians, we are ready to negotiate with Egypt, we are ready to negotiate with Jordan."

But the Israeli leader stressed that the decision of King Hussein of Jordan to turn over responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO does not mean that Israel will negotiate with the PLO "and that has to be clear."

"We don't see any chance, because the PLO by its ideology, by its philosophy, is opposed to peace and it is unreasonable to talk about peace with people who are against peace," he was quoted as saying.

## Brunei job offers false

(Continued from Page 1)  
the British embassy in question is

The notice describes terms of employment.

The minimum annual wages, it says, are US \$20,000 and that is for "simple jobs." It also mentions benefits including housing, free board and transportation, and even opportunity to gain status as an immigrant, supposedly to help Brunei balance its population requirements.

The wages quoted in the notice are ridiculous, Banks said. "The Sultan of Brunei may be a philanthropist but even so, the salaries mentioned are unbelievable," he said.

Brunei can easily recruit labour from the Philippines or Thailand, he said, adding that Brunei would be an unlikely place to look for a workforce. The notice stresses Brunei's links with the Arab world.

### Applications

The description of Brunei in the notice is the one of a land of promise but the circular warns that "the climate is equatorial, to much raining, forests, and animals, too."

Although the notice states that there is a dire need for construction workers, it also invites applications from "technical and non-technical and administrative professionals."

Those applications should be addressed to the Controller of Immigration in the capital of Brunei, it says, but the name of the city is misspelt.

Banks says it is clear the notice was not written by a native English speaker, noting that it contains Indian phraseology.

In the past, similar notices required applicants to send a small amount of money to a given address, Banks said. But this is not the case with this circular.

"I don't believe that this is the way Brunei would recruit labour," said Banks.

Banks said if the sultanate was serious about recruiting in this part of the world it would send a labour counsellor to do the job.

## Hungary to build a Disneyland

BUDAPEST, Aug. 7. (Reuter): Hungary wants to build Eastern Europe's first Disneyland, a further sign of the reform-minded communist country's desire to embrace the spirit of free market economics.

Prime Minister Karoly Grosz visited the original Disneyland in Anaheim, California, during his 10-day visit to the United States last month.

He returned home enthusiastic about what he saw, telling a radio interviewer last week that a Disneyland vice-president would visit Hungary in September to discuss building a new outpost of capitalism's most famous amusement park.

The first Disneyland outside the United States opened in Tokyo in 1983 and draws 10 million visitors a year. Another is due to open outside Paris in 1992.

Hungary leads the Soviet bloc in introducing economic and political reforms. It was the first Eastern European country to open a McDonald's fast food restaurant, which began operations in Budapest in April.

Grosz pledged during the US trip to ease control over the economy and open Hungary to foreign capital.



Paramedics carry an injured passenger of a runaway train that smashed into buffers at Paris station. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Following Paris trains' crash

# French railroad chief quits

PARIS, Aug. 7. (AP): The president of France's state-run railroad resigned today in the wake of the second serious train wreck in six weeks. But unions claimed changing presidents only camouflaged the government's own responsibility.

The resignation of Philippe Rivoillois, 53, was accepted by Transport Minister Michel Delebarre, who said last night that instructions given by the government after an earlier accident had not been sufficiently applied. "I don't believe in fate," the minister said.

**Mechanical**  
A suburban train crashed into a terminal barrier yesterday in Paris' Gare de l'Est station, killing a 29-year-old man and injuring 57 other people. The initial investigation indicated the cause of the crash was mechanical and not a human error.

On June 27, a train crash at another Paris station, the Gare de Lyon, killed 56 people and injured 32. Those accidents, coupled with several minor incidents, have heightened concern about safety on the railroad.

The Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais, commonly known by its initials, SNCF said.

According to SNCF officials, the driver of the train told them he noticed nothing unusual during his run from Chateau-Thierry, 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of Paris, until he entered the Gare de l'Est. Then, he said, the brakes did not respond.

A review of the train's "black box" recorder indicated the driver correctly braked and that a slowing of the train occurred. The company said. But the record

showed that while breaking was normal, the engine continued to push the train, which entered the station at 20 to 30 kilometres per hour (12-19 miles per hour).

"It's like having your foot on the accelerator and the brake at the same time," said SNCF spokesman Yves Chenel.

**Controls**

The train, which Chenel said was about four years old, is what is known as a "reversible," that is it can be either pulled by an engine or pushed by it. When it is pushed, the driver controls the train from a cabin located in the front car.

That was the situation yesterday when the first car slammed into the barrier, rode up on it and twisted at a right angle. The other three cars and the engine remained on the tracks.

**India**

IN BURMA, India, Aug. 7. (UPI):

Police staged a baton-charge today to disperse some 3,000 people demanding the Bihar state government speed up a search for more than 400 people missing and feared drowned after a ferry boat capsized, a witness said.

The confirmed death toll remained at 40 in yesterday's disaster on the Ganges river near the remote town of Katihar, 155 miles (250 km) east of the state capital of Patna, officials said.

The court's judge plans to interrogate them soon and decide whether they should be released or retained in custody while awaiting trial, police said.

Camerini allegedly led the gang that kidnapped Melodie Nakachian on Nov 9 as she was being driven to school in the Mediterranean resort of Marbella.

She is the daughter of Lebanese contractor Raymond Nakachian, a resident of Spain, and Korean singer Kimera, 33. The child was found unharmed in a raid on a house in Estepona, another coastal town, 11 days later.

The abductors had threatened to kill the girl and demanded a ransom of \$13 million.

Police said a total of nine people have been arrested in connection with the kidnapping.

**Swam**

They said 535 people, most of them Hindu pilgrims, had purchased tickets for the ferry and five members of the Bihar military police boarded for free.

The boat also had a crew of about 50 passengers onto the vessel, which had a seating capacity of only 160.

**Swam**

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The boat also had a crew of about 50 passengers onto the vessel, which had a seating capacity of only 160.

**SDI forced Soviets to accept arms cut**

## Reagan defends defence bill veto

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7. (Reuter): President Reagan, battling with Congress over funds for his "Star Wars" system, yesterday credited the controversial programme with forcing the Soviet Union into arms reduction talks.

Reagan earlier in the week vetoed a defence spending bill, in part because it fell short of the \$4.8 billion he sought in funding for the space-based system formally known as the Strategic Defense Initiative.

**Importance**

"If I had accepted that bill, it would have undermined the (military) strength we worked so hard to restore, in time jeopardising all our remarkable diplomatic advances," Reagan said in his weekly radio address.

"Congress's defence bill repre-

sented an all but open attempt to block our Strategic Defence Initiative," he said.

"Yet no development has been of greater importance in our strategic arms negotiations with the Soviets than our decision to proceed with SDI."

**Hoped**

"Congress wants to cut our budget request for SDI deeply," Reagan complained. He said the bill "represents an attempt by Congress to handcuff the President in our arms reduction negotiations with the Soviets."

"This kind of unilateral concession to the Soviets could set back all the progress we've made on the arms reduction front," he said.

The Senate on Friday rejected an attempt to add \$500 million for the SDI programme to a rev-

ised defence bill, which would authorise \$4 billion for the project in the next fiscal year.

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, in the Democrats' response to Reagan, accused the President of pandering to election-year politics in his veto of the bill, hoping to aid Vice President George Bush, the prospective Republican presidential nominee.

"I had hoped that President Reagan would put national defence above partisan politics," said Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"I had hoped that President Reagan would listen to those who urged him not to veto this important bill, including his secretary of defence and his national security adviser," Nunn said.

**Turkish referendum moved closer**

ANKARA, Aug. 7. (Reuter): A referendum which the opposition sees as a major test of confidence in Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is expected in late September, following a parliamentary move today.

Members voted by 263 to 103 to shorten to 40 days from 120 the time which must elapse before a referendum can be held.

Ozal's centre-right Motherland Party voted yesterday to amend the 1982 constitution so that municipal elections can take place on Nov 13, four months ahead of schedule.

A referendum then became inevitable because Motherland's

means it can now be held on the first Sunday 40 days after the decision is published in the official gazette following approval by President Kemal

## Earthquake kills three in Assam

NEW DELHI, Aug. 7. (Agencies): A powerful earthquake that rocked the sub-continent killed three people and injured 12, a news report said today.

The Press Trust of India said the victims lived in northeastern Assam state, the hardest hit by yesterday's quake.

The news agency said two people were killed and 12 others injured when buildings collapsed during the earthquake. The third person died in a traffic accident blamed on the quake, it said.

Tremors were also felt in Dhaka, the capital of neighbouring Bangladesh, but there were no reports of casualties or damage.

The earthquake, which registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, apparently unrelated to the first, was felt in northern India and parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, officials said. It measured 6.5 on the Richter scale and was centred in the Hindu Kush mountains.

H.L. Srivastava, director of New Delhi's seismological observation, said the earlier "high intensity" earthquake was centred 1,100 miles (1,820 km) to the southeast inside Burmese territory, just over the border from India's tiny jungle-covered Manipur state.

In India, the shock waves rolled through a region stretching from the eastern Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south.

In Bangladesh, the earthquake lasted more than one minute and was felt across a large area, prompting hundreds of people to flee in panic from swaying buildings in the capital, Dhaka.

**New maps help blind find way around Washington**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7. (UPI):

Blind and visually impaired visitors now can rely on an unusual new set of maps to get their bearings around the monuments and landmarks of the nation's capital.

The maps, intended for free distribution through congressional offices, are 14 by 19 inch (35.5 by 48 centimetre) plastic sheets that depict such landmarks as the Lincoln Memorial, the White House and the Washington Monument as bumps shaped like their actual contours. They carry legends in both English and braille.

The maps cover the Mall, Capitol Hill, Arlington Cemetery, the Two Jima Memorial and other sights, as well as the floor plan of the US Capitol.

A separate map and smaller pocket guide covers the metro rapid transit system. Different geometric shapes let vision-impaired visitors know not only the subway stops but what side of the platform the train comes in on.

About \$35,000 of the \$150,000 contract went to produce six larger display modules of the maps, which will be placed around Washington.

And 20 travelling exhibits that will be lent to libraries and other places around the country.

George Covington, a legally blind interior department official who directed the "tactile capital" project, said: "these maps are unique."

**Hussein will recognise ...**

(Continued from Page 1)

Territories' Ministry to a newly formed department attached to the Foreign Ministry.

Dudin said the newly formed department "will take care of some social, economic and legal affairs in the occupied West Bank."

**Move to wrest control of vacated cities**

# Afghan rebels to set up Army

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7. (Reuters): A guerrilla council in northern Afghanistan has proposed the creation of a regular Army to wrest cities from government control as Soviet forces leave the country, spokesmen for the group said on Saturday.

Four men forming a delegation of the so-called supervisory council of the north told a news conference they had brought the proposal to the Pakistan-based main guerrilla alliance for a decision.

They said the council, led by rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masood and operating in 10 provinces north of the capital Kabul, had suggested the Army be formed at the start with 13,000 men.

They said they wanted the alliance to provide resources for creating the proposed Army.

The Western-backed Muslim guerrillas say they control more than 80 per cent of the countryside, with the Soviet-backed Kabul government ruling only the cities.

"Scattered groups cannot win the war, we have to have an Army," council delegation leader Syed Hussain said.

Masood belongs to the

Jamiat-e-Islami party of Burhanuddin Rabbani and holds sway over a large part of northeast Afghanistan that Soviet troops must cross if they withdraw to the Soviet border by road.

Jamiat, one of the seven parties forming the guerrilla alliance headquartered in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, dominates the council whose 200 members also include men from other groups.

The delegation members said they had discussed the proposal with Rabbani who had backed it but were yet to take it up with the leaders of other six parties in the alliance.

Radio Kabul also confirmed Soviet soldiers will be pulled out of the besieged city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. The terms of a United Nations brokered accord demands half of an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers must be out of Afghanistan by Aug 15. The remainder are to be gone by Feb 15.

According to Soviet news agency Tass, Shevardnadze met with government and military officials yesterday on the third day of his visit to Afghanistan.

The Soviet official discussed relations between his country and the pro-Soviet Afghan government and the war against anti-government insurgents in Geneva on April 14, the Soviet Union is withdrawing its soldiers from Afghanistan.

Shevardnadze met with Afghan President Najib on Friday.

The Soviet Union sent soldiers to Afghanistan in December 1979 to replace one pro-Soviet government with another, and to fight the rebels. Since then more than 13,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed in the fighting.

Under the terms of an agreement reached among the United States, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in Geneva on April 14, the Soviet Union is withdrawing its soldiers from Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul reported that nine people were killed and 10 others injured in a rocket attack on Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

Friday's attack is being blamed by the Afghan government on Afghan guerrillas, who have been fighting the Soviet-backed government for more than eight years.

Afghanistan's state-run radio also said about 31 pounds (14 kilograms) of explosives were seized in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Scattered groups cannot win the war, we have to have an Army," council delegation leader Syed Hussain said.

Masood belongs to the

## Pakistani mourners burn US, Soviet flags

PESHAWAR, Aug 7. (AP): Flags of the United States, and Soviet Union were torched yesterday during a funeral service for the assassinated Pakistani Shi'ite leader Arif Hussain Al Hussaini.

An unidentified assassin shot Hussaini, 42, early Friday, and no one has claimed responsibility. Sporadic demonstrations broke out in several Pakistani cities following the shooting but were quickly brought under control.

About 5,000 wailing and weeping mourners converged on Jinnah Park in the old city of the Frontier capital beating their chests and heads and burning flags.

### Greet

Pakistan President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was greeted by demonstrators chanting anti-Zia slogans, where he arrived at the park to offer prayers for Hussaini.

He was accompanied by his caretaker government officials as well as several provincial government representatives.

The head of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, attended the funeral. Iran yesterday reportedly declared a national day of mourning because of the Shi'ite leader's death.

Hussain Asghar, a mourner from Hangu, about 50 miles (80 km) south of Peshawar, said: "Hussaini believed in pan-Islamism and his murder was to separate Islam."

### Violent

He warned: "We (Shi'ites) believe in taking revenge ... The revenge will be decided by the central committee of (Hussaini's political party)."

However Asghar ruled out violent clashes between Pakistani Sunnis and Shi'ite Muslims.

"We believe Sunnis and Shi'ites will not quarrel. Eighty per cent of Pakistan's Sunnis condemned the murder and Sunnis have come to pay their respects," he said.

In the mid-1970s Hussaini was expelled from Iraq after being accused of stirring anti-government unrest and later studied in Iran.

## Libya ready to open embassy in Chad

TUNIS, Aug 7. (UPI): Libya is ready to open an embassy in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena and allow Chad to open a mission in Tripoli, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi was quoted as saying today.

Khaddafi made the surprise statement last night after talk with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the Libyan capital, the official Tunisian news agency TAP said.

"Libya has sufficient courage and credibility to state that it places itself in a position of neutrality regarding this problem," TAP quoted Khaddafi saying.

Ben Ali had two hours of talks on the telephone with Chadian President Hissen Habre before he went to Tripoli Saturday for his first visit to Libya since he seized power in November from "senile" President Habib Bourguiba, official sources said.

If Khaddafi went ahead with efforts to open a "people's bureau," or embassy, in Chad it would be a remarkable about turn for the Libyan强人.

## Students clash with officials

# Three shot dead in Burma

RANGOON, Aug 7. (Reuters): Burmese police have killed at least three people and wounded 20 in spreading anti-government riots in Burma, the state press said today.

An emergency decree banning public gatherings was slapped on Pegu, nearby Thanatpin and northern Yenanyang after high school students and townspeople clashed with officials on yesterday's day.

NAB said police in Pegu shot dead three people and wounded 18 others as they tried to fend off stone-throwing students and townspeople who attacked their loudspeaker vehicle, which was broadcasting the emergency dispersal orders.

It said four policemen also

shot into a crowd of rioters in Thanatpin but gave no details of

## Fires kill five in Algeria

ALGIERS, Aug 7. (AP): Five people died and at least 32 were injured in forest fires last week in the Kabyle mountains near Bejaia, the official Algerian news agency reported.

Sixteen separate fires broke out Tuesday and Wednesday in the hills around Bejaia while midday temperatures soared to 48 degrees Centigrade (118F).

The harbour town of Bejaia and its 130,000 inhabitants were virtually cut off from communications by land at one time, apparently explaining why the state-run Algerian media failed to mention the fires for several days.

The news agency said about 1,000 vacationers threatened by the flames at a beach resort in the Aigues forest near Bejaia had to be rescued by a flotilla of small boats.

The fire services of cities as far away as Batna, 180 kilometres to the south, were summoned to the scene.

The agency said the intervention of civil defence and petroleum security services narrowly avoided a catastrophe in Bejaia's oil harbour, the terminus of a pipeline from the Saharan oilfields.

## US won't deal with Filipino kidnappers

ILIGAN, Philippines, Aug. 7 (UPI): The United States refuses to negotiate with Muslim kidnappers holding an American and his Filipino wife hostage in a remote southern jungle, a diplomat said today.

The diplomat, US consul Frank Huddle disclosed the United States' unwillingness to make a deal with the kidnappers after he met briefly with American military officials.

Philippine authorities, meanwhile, appealed through an emissary for the release of David Stifter, 47, and his wife Elpidia Benuya by the outlaw gang that abducted the two from a public minibus one week ago.

Negotiations

The kidnappers, believed to have broken away from one of several Muslim separatist armies active in the island of Mindanao, reported through messengers yesterday that the couple was "alive and well" and that demands for their release would be presented soon.

Three Philippine businessmen kidnapped by the same group a week earlier have been found dead, the military said yesterday. Huddle, US consul in the cen-

tral city of Cebu, flew with two military attaches today to the city of Iligan, 50 km north of where the hostages are believed held.

The hostages are thought to be held in Ganazzi, a small jungle-bound village on the shore of Lake Lanao in Lanao del Sur province.

"The US government will not negotiate with any kidnapper," Huddle said.

"We are leaving this matter to the Philippine government," he added from the airplane at Iligan airport.

"So far we are satisfied by the way the military is handling the case."

Resos said a reformed rebel commander, Jamil Lucman, had sent an emissary to find the kidnappers and advise them that Stifter cannot personally pay a requested ransom, which sources said was set at 100,000 pesos (\$5,000).

"He is just a construction worker," said Resos, who also warned the military would resume search-and-rescue operations if the couple had not been released within 15 days, despite warnings the two will be killed if a rescue is attempted.

### Strife

The country's Christians and Muslims elected the present parliament in 1972, three years before the start of the strife.

Continued bloodshed and political bickering have stopped a whole new generation from

## Lebanese have little say in electing a new president

BEIRUT, Aug 7. (Reuters): A new Lebanese president will soon be elected but millions of people longing for an end to 13 years of civil war will have little say in the choice.

"Our president always carries the label, 'made in ...,'" said an independent Christian politician.

"Either Syria, Israel or the United States will decide."

"We lived through 13 years of war that killed thousands of people and will end up with yet another president chosen by the US," he said.

"The people wonder who will be president but don't have a chance to say who they really want," he said.

Parliament must before Sept. 23 elect Aoun Gemayel's successor, who under the national covenant has to be another Christian Maronite.

But many Lebanese feel the 76 surviving deputies in the 99-seat house do not represent their aspirations and are open to foreign pressure.

### Strife

The country's Christians and Muslims elected the present parliament in 1972, three years before the start of the strife.

Continued bloodshed and political bickering have stopped a whole new generation from

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Thatcher listens to girls singing to her in a Kampuchean refugee camp on the Thai-Kampuchea border. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Flood-hit Sudan appeals for help

KHARTOUM, Aug 7. (Reuters): Sudan has appealed for international help as flooding following torrential rain stranded more than a million people.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem made the appeal after announcing that Khartoum had been declared a disaster area along with three towns to the east and north.

As he spoke last night angry Khartoum residents took to the streets shouting anti-government slogans to protest lack of power and drinking water and shortage of food.

Long bread queues formed throughout the capital and most shops have closed.

Scores of people have been electrocuted as eroded pylons keeled over bringing power lines crashing down, eyewitnesses said.

All telephone and telex links with the outside world were cut and Khartoum airport was closed for 24 hours.

Thousands in the capital are without shelter. Nour Al Dayem said rain destroyed 5,000 homes but newspapers said the figure was nearer 10,000.

The deluge began on Thursday and 21 centimetres (over eight inches) of rain fell without a break in the next 13 hours, according to the minister.

Sudan, whose 23 million people are among the poorest in the world, appealed to the United Nations in June for help in dealing with drought.

Last week, Sudan declared itself a locust-infested area and appealed for international help to combat 30 swarms eating their way through scarce crops.

The country's problems have been worsened by a major refugee problem as thousands flee north from fighting in the south between government forces and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

## 311 found alive after floods in China

BEIJING, Aug. 7. (AP): Rescuers located 311 people who had been missing and presumed dead after flash floods and heavy rains ravaged a province on the Chinese coast, a newspaper reported.

The Xinmin Evening News (Xinmin Wanbao) reported that 50 people were still missing from the floods that hit Zhejiang province on July 29-30. In all, 264 people have been confirmed dead in the disaster. The economic loss has been estimated at more than 600 million yuan (\$162 million), the paper said.

"Using a variety of methods... 311 people have been found," the paper said. It did not elaborate.

Local officials interviewed by telephone shortly after the disaster said it was the worst rain in 100 years.

Qiu Weikang, an official from the flood-hit city of Ningbo, said 460 millimetres (18 inches) of rain fell in a few or six hours period in parts of five hard-hit counties near Ningbo, a prosperous commercial city on the East China Sea.

The Evening News said the rains and flooding destroyed 27,000 houses and 944 schools. More than 52,000 people have been given temporary shelter, it said.

More than 800 people have died in floods this year in coastal, southern and northern China. Another 500 were killed by a heat wave in cities in the Yangtze River valley.

The most recent flood occurred yesterday morning in Shanxi province in northern China. The official Xinhua news agency reported that at least 21 people died and 19 others were missing after Fenyang county was hit by more than three hours of rain.

Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali (left) talks to Khaddafi on his arrival in Tripoli. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Iraqi minister arrives

IRAQI Interior Minister, Samir Abdulwahab, arrived in Kuwait yesterday for an official visit.

He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yacoub and acting Interior Undersecretary Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed Al Qabandi.

The Iraqi minister told reporters that his visit aims at increasing co-operation between the interior ministries of the two states.

Sheikh Salem said the visit is mutually beneficial for both Kuwait and Iraq.

He said that there are many issues that need to be settled, including border demarcation and movement of commerce.

## Robberies

IT has been learnt that 10 commercial shops in the Dawiya complex were broken into recently by number of thieves. Well-informed sources said that the robberies occurred during noon prayers on Friday. The watchman informed the Capital police and Acting Commander Major Yacoub Al Najadah rushed to the scene.

## UK warship nearly downed cargo plane

LONDON, Aug 7, (AP): A British warship came within 10 seconds of shooting down a civilian aircraft over the Gulf near the United Arab Emirates, a newspaper reported today.

The weekly Observer, quoting unnamed air traffic controllers in Dubai, reported the destroyer HMS Cardiff last year targeted surface-to-air missiles at a cargo plane.

### Highlighted

The Observer did not specify the date or further identify the plane, but said the alleged incident had never previously been disclosed.

Air traffic controllers quoted by the newspaper said the incident highlighted the dangers of foreign warships operating in the Gulf, where Iran and Iraq have both attacked shipping in their eight-year war.

The Cardiff was on routine escort duty when the cargo plane flew over the ship by mistake and the pilot was not linked to an emergency military radio frequency that could have been used to warn him, the newspaper quoted the controllers.

When the pilot did not respond to warnings from the ship, the Observer said, "preparations were made to shoot down the

plane. Anti-aircraft missiles were within 10 seconds of being launched when a final check revealed the plane was not hostile."

The Observer reported no comment from the Royal Navy.

The air traffic controllers also said a US navy warship once ordered a British Airways flight to change course and nearly caused it to crash into another aircraft.

The Dubai air traffic controllers said they "swiftly countermanded" the order from the US Navy ship and avoided a collision between the two planes, the Observer reported.

No comment from the US Navy was reported.

### Inquiry

The article follows an inquiry by the United States into the July 3 downing by the guided-missile cruiser USS Vincennes of an Iran Air jetliner, killing all 290 people aboard.

A Defence Department report blamed the incident on human error by radar operators without combat experience, who wrongly informed Capt. Will C. Rogers the airliner appeared to be an attacking fighter, Defence Department officials said. The report also blamed the accident on stress under combat with Iranian gunboats.

## Kuwait praised for holding marine week

HEADS of the GCC delegation taking part in the 5th Marine Week being held here said such an event can help strengthen ties between the GCC youths and encourages them to continue old traditions.

### Pioneer

At a press conference held on Saturday at the Shaab Sea Club the officials thanked Kuwait for holding such events and expressed their readiness to participate in future events.

Murad Al Ali, the head of the UAE delegation, said that after the discovery of oil the people of

activities, Abdulla Al Jarallah, praised Kuwait's efforts in this field. He said that Kuwait is a pioneer in reviving the old heritage, especially that of the marine heritage.

The head of the Bahraini delegation, Abdul Rahman Al Manai, said he is looking forward to more activities. He had particular praise for the diving school and described it as an important part of the training of the GCC youths.

Murad Al Ali, the head of the Gulf states forsook the important professions like diving.

However, he added that all the Gulf states have started paying great attention to the old professions, particularly diving. He called for improving the diving school by providing it with modern facilities and equipment.

### Diving

The main event, the diving trip, will begin on Monday and will continue for five days.

The divers strive to imitate their ancestors in searching for pearls.

## Kuwaiti gift

## Hospitals for Sudan



Abyadhi-Kuwait Hospital



Kasla-Kuwait Hospital

fund in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

He thanked Kuwait's Finance Ministry and Ministry of Public Health for providing the Kasla-Kuwait Hospital with medicine and equipment.

Al Tawheed also noted that the fund was following up the construction of another hospital

in Abyadhi city in Sudan, which is being financed by Dawood Musa Al Saleh.

The hospital will consist of an outpatients' department and clinics for delivery and women's and children's diseases.

Al Tawheed called on Muslims to support health services for refugees in Sudan.

THE Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries is conducting a comprehensive survey of the soil in different areas in the country to assess its suitability for agriculture, a local daily has reported.

It added that about 6,000 acres have been surveyed so far, as a prelude to their being organised and distributed in the form of agricultural plots. An additional 10,000 acres have been surveyed in the Al Waqra area and some of the land has been distributed.

The survey process will also cover agricultural land annexed to governmental projects, in addition to the studies and research to be conducted for the

## Soil survey being conducted

KLIBI off to New York for UN talks on Gulf

TUNIS, Aug 7, (KUNA): Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi left Jeddah shortly after delivering the message.

In Abu Dhabi, an official statement said that the letter tackled bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

KLIBI off to New York for UN talks on Gulf

Washington.

Klibi, in a statement here last night, welcomed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's announcement to accept a ceasefire with Iran, describing Iraq's step as further evidence of Baghdad's keenness on reaching just and durable peace according to international law and in the interest of all people in the region.

The statement indicated that delegations of the Arab seven-man committee would be visiting permanent member-states of the Security Council to explain the Arab stance supporting a ceasefire, an end of the war and restoration of fraternal ties between Iraq and all the Arab countries.

Last night, the Saudi foreign minister paid a brief visit to Baghdad during which he conferred with President Saddam on latest Gulf developments.

The committee's delegation will include Moroccan Foreign and Co-operation Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Saud Al Faisal, who will join Klibi in the talks planned in New York and

in Abyadhi city in Sudan, which is being financed by Dawood Musa Al Saleh.

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Soviet-Bahrain relations soon

ABU DHABI, Aug 7, (KUNA): Diplomatic relations are expected to be established during the coming few days between the Soviet Union and Bahrain, press reports said yesterday.

According to the reports, the foreign ministries of the Soviet Union and Bahrain are currently engaged in discussions to determine the day of announcing the joint step.

Another experiment is being conducted on urea fertilizer in co-operation with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

There also have been experiments on deriving fertilizers from fisheries and on the treatment of sewage for agricultural purposes.

DAILY AL ITTIHAD published here quoted Soviet sources as saying that restoration of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia will be announced next October to coincide with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Riyadh and opening of the first airline service of the Soviet Aeroflot between Moscow and Jeddah in the same month.

"Canada Dry drinks promotion"

Canada Dry held its grand draw of 33 airline tickets of the company's premises, in attendance of representatives from Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Commerce.

Results are as follows:

Winning No. Reserved Winning No. General Reserve No.

64655	61379	23902	56574	29506
31126	12893	67098	18479	24173
68698	58628	40211	54514	22842
25170	35246	2821	59100	66504
58648	52742	24628	71207	26571
10598	7005	41518	33609	66832
11756	11494	55841	2833	59497
44802	45919	73638	48478	69468
56211	21835	7979	74056	43860
54202	89243	59354	30024	51083
49854	3257	38438	8763	
33251	67607	57655		
39053	10386	10198	45162	
61382	50762	47483	70256	
54330	53834	68771	54743	
32559	39893	64602	57710	
	49896		12982	

The lucky winners and the reserve winners are kindly requested to contact Canada Dry Company of Tel. Numbers: 4716905 - 4736222.

Last date to collect the prizes is 15/9/88.

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Ottawa-Canada.

## KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

### Testing Iran's credibility

TWO local dailies yesterday commented on Iraq's willingness to cease fire provided Iran agrees to hold face-to-face talks immediately after the truce. Both the newspapers said new Iraqi decision tests Iran's credibility.

Al Anba said: "If the Iranian leaders are really interested in ending the war and establishing a just and honourable peace, they only have to announce frankly and without misgiving their acceptance to start direct negotiations with Iraq after cessation of fire immediately."

Iraq has proved yet again its keenness on establishing peace in the region, the newspaper emphasised, pointing out that the Iraqi initiative will put an end to any tricks and uncover the Iranian intentions.

"Will Iran announce its acceptance, and be convinced that this is the only avenue for co-existence in the region?" the newspaper asked.

Meanwhile, the daily Al Qabas pointed out that the new Iraqi decision is only a test for the Iranian intentions but also uncover the "role of the big" in the game, the newspaper went on saying.

Iraq, backed by the Arabs, wants durable and honourable peace through the "only natural channel - direct negotiations," the newspaper asserted.

The Iraqi decision is in harmony with the international drive and with the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts, the paper said, noting that "there is no justification for the big to play on both ropes."

Cessation of fire cannot be fulfilled without price "... its price is peace," it concluded.

## GULF PRESS

### Create confidence

A United Arab Emirates newspaper today expressed optimism over peace prospects in the Gulf after Iraq dropped its demand for direct talks with Iran before a ceasefire.

The United Nations and the Security Council's permanent members should now shoulder responsibility to implement the ceasefire resolution 598 to bring about a just and comprehensive peace and guarantee the rights of the two parties, the Abu Dhabi-based Al Waha said.

But it said that a half of fighting should precede other steps to create confidence and prompt the two combatants to overlook the post chapter of destruction.

The paper said it hoped Iraq and Iran would go ahead with peace negotiations and place the interest of their people above all other considerations.

Peace is the only remaining alternative to save what is left of the two countries' potentials, it said.

diplomatic

## EVENTS

## INDIAN FILM SCREENINGS

**Touching the heart**

By Elora Shehabuddin

"ALL I have to do is pout and you become utterly miserable; how will you cope if I get married?" daughter asks father when he suggests she finally explore the world beyond papa. *Hum To Chale Pardes* starts off on a familiar note: the mother dies at childbirth, leaving her husband with the baby and under oath to never remarry. But then, rather than trailing off into a side-story, the film scrutinises the developing father-daughter relationship and its effect on others.

Shashi Kapoor gives one of his better performances as the doting father. Mandakini plays the daughter, Priya; she can't act but she does beautify the sets and that's always useful as a contingency measure. In any case, her role doesn't require much — other than a few tantrums, dances and replays of the spoilt-brat routine.

Rajeev Kapoor seems to have developed into a mature actor. As Ajay, he portrays effectively the hurt and anger that he feels as his wife, Priya, tries to organise her life and balance her emotions between him and her father.

The scenes designed to show Priya's reluctance to start afresh with her husband may appear somewhat contrived but they serve their purpose.



Jayaprada: forever the faithful wife

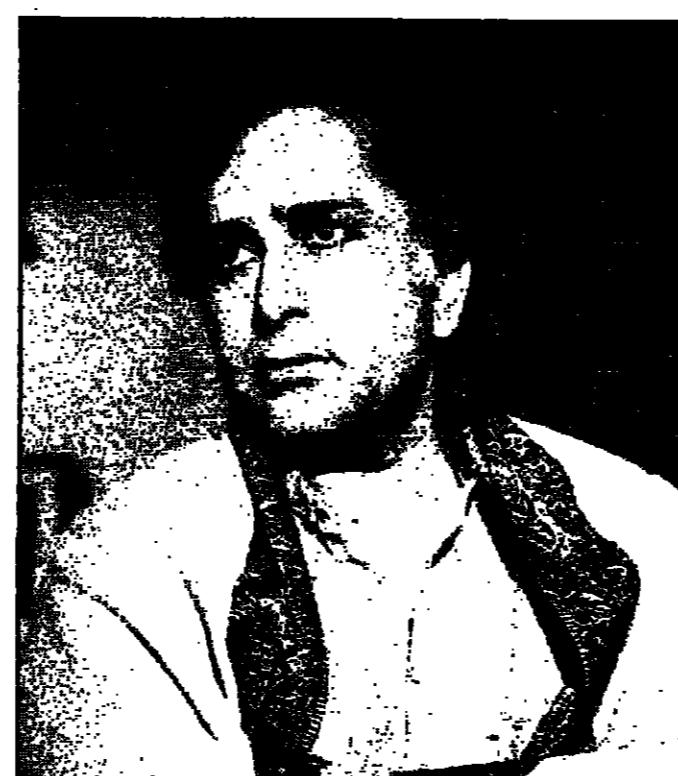
Priya rushes off to check on her father when she finds out he has a headache ... and neglects to take her mother-in-law to see a specialist about a kidney stone. So far, so good, and very effective. Then, Ajay comes home from work to find his mother sulking because she has missed her appointment. One cannot help but find discrepancies in the sorrowful tale of an otherwise independent and liberated woman who is unable to go to the doctor without her teenage daughter-in-law's help.

The film is refreshing in that no obscenities are hurled across the screen every three minutes. For those out there who lust for blood and gore, there is only one fight sequence; fortunately I suppose, Ajay, the mild-mannered businessman from London, dons his superhero cape in the nick of time. The fight has little bearing on the story other than prematurely putting an end to the couple's honeymoon.

With an uncluttered plot and cast, *Hum To Chale Pardes* is a touching movie and even die-hard cynics may find themselves blinking away stray tears.

**Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani**

A nasty mother, a son named Ram, a daughter-in-law called Sita, and a "Laxman jaya" brother — shades of the great epic, eh? — make up the incredible family of *Ghar Ghar*

Shashi Kapoor gives a particularly strong performance as the doting father in *Hum To Chale Pardes*.

of a dying "commoner," played by Soumitra Chatterjee. The latter recovers from his heart attack, filled with, shall we say, new life. He is disgusted and amazed as he experiences the societal evils created by the recently-deceased politician.

The story, by Sanjiv Chatterjee, explores a great many of today's harsh realities. The opening scenes are particularly graphic: footage of floods, famine and disease alternate with images of the lifestyles of the rich and famous. The film also stars Shatabdi Ray and Robi Ghosh.

**Indrani**

Although this film was made about 30 years ago, it has only recently appeared on video in Kuwait. It stars Suchitra Sen and the late Uttam Kumar, perhaps the most popular on-screen couple of West Bengal.

Indrani (Suchitra) is born into a rural family at a time when funds are particularly depleted — her father has channelled everything into starting a newspaper, and a daughter is an undesirable burden. Her father soon realises that it would be wiser to invest in his daughter's future, and he educates her; it should make it easier to find a husband who won't claim her for a dowry. The newspaper doesn't last.

Indrani goes away to college in Calcutta, where she falls for her room-mate's brother Sudarsan. She marries him despite opposition opposition from her father. Sudarsan is of a different caste and involved in research, that is, not gainfully employed. The Datta family, who exiled her to the highest heavens when she was only their daughter's roomie, turns against her after the wedding.

Indrani is no weepy-eyed clinging female, even by today's sexting standards. She survives until they meet up again and start all over on a more equal footing.

It is a good movie but does not compete with some of their better efforts, such as *Haraam Shoor, Padhe Holo Deri* and *Agni Pariksha*. Bengali films are not renowned for the quality of their video recording but this one is especially bad. Then again, the prospect of sore eyes and a splitting headache has never yet deterred a dedicated Suchitra-Uttam fan. If the story doesn't appeal to you, I strongly recommend the music. But I confess that's a very biased opinion: I am yet to recover from my childhood crush on Hemanta Mukherjee and "Shurijo dobrabari."

The above films are courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tel. 471-2900.

**Agnil Sanket**

This Bengali movie, directed by Arup Datta, deals with an old theme, today's political corruption and the ever-increasing distance between the country's leaders and the common masses, but in a novel manner.

An important political figure collapses and dies during a rally. The bespectacled gods above direct his spirit into that

hazard barbecue at the poolside; there will be games, prizes and surprises. On Thursday, enjoy music and food at the Arabian Night at the Al Andalus Supper club. Al Dana offers a special treat for children at the Friday brunch, open from 11 am to 3 pm.

Recreation facilities include squash and tennis courts, male/female gyms, saunas, solaris, whirlpools, and massage and relaxation rooms.

**At the Hilton**

La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6.30 am to midnight.

At the Faialaka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12.30 pm and 7.30-11.30 pm.

Ice-cream, cold drinks and this week's special coconut pie — are available at La Palma. Open daily 10.30 am - 10.45 pm.

**At the Sheraton**

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo is closed on Fridays.

The discussions will be carried out mainly in Malayalam. For information on time and venue, please contact Karun, 4814477.

**D'Assissi Association**

The association will hold a social evening-cum-varietyp show on August 11 at Messiah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9.30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909 (am) 3717346 (pm) or August on 5746754 after 6 pm.

**HOTELS**

**At the Holiday Inn**

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; à la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at Vienna's Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are ideal for a period of quiet relaxation.

On Wednesday, join the Sha-

hazad barbecue at the poolside; there will be games, prizes and surprises. On Thursday, enjoy music and food at the Arabian Night at the Al Andalus Supper club. Al Dana offers a special treat for children at the Friday brunch, open from 11 am to 3 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

There is a Filipino Night every Sunday 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm; live entertainment provided.

**At the Rama**

El Bendar Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 12 midnight; à la carte also featured.

The take-away counter, opened daily from 4 pm to 11 pm, offers a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks.

**The Lobby Lounge**

Offers a selection of coffee, tea, juice, cakes and pastries.

**SPORTS**

**IVth Winners Cup**

cricket tournament

The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open IVth Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning September. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the KOC ground. Ahmad. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa, Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm.

**Boy's Own Club**

Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (October 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

**Kuwait Nomads**

Kuwait Nomads pre-season training starts Sunday August 7 at 7.30 pm. All are welcome. For details contact 5642599.

**At the Meridian**

La Brasserie offers Friday brunch from 12 noon to 4 pm; also open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.

**At the Continental**

The Darbar offers a daily lunch buffet with a wide range of Indian kebabs and curries. A

à la carte for dinner.

**James Garner stars in Glitter Dome, an adaptation of Joseph Wambaugh's novel about a pair of LA police officers out to crack a film mogul's murder.**

**TELEVISION PROGRAMMES****KTV 1**

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Good morning
- 9.30 Cartoons
- 10.15 Dawa'l Hub: starring Mirvat Amin, Mustafah Fahmi, Iman Al Turk
- 11.15 Ala Dunya Al Salam: Arabic serial, starring Suad Abdulla, Hayat Al Fahd
- 12.15 Cultural film
- 1.30 Summer Clubs
- 2.30 Cartoons
- 3.35 Cartoons
- 4.15 1986 World Cup football match: Argentina vs. West Germany
- 7.10 Alwan
- 7.50 Holy Quran and Science: "The Plant World"
- 8.30 Cultural show
- 8.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Hussain: Arabic daily serial starring Samiha Ayoub and Saad Ardash
- 10.45 Arabic feature film: "Al Fanous Al Sehri" starring Ismail Yassine, Kariman, Abdul Salam Al Nabelsi
- 12.15 News Summary



The Equaliser strides into action on KTV 1 at 10.30 pm.

**KTV 2**

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Galtar
- 6.30 The Craft of the Potter: In the final programme of the series, a potter, a



The Miami Vice Squad 'Walk Alive' in tonight's episode, on KTV 2 at 8.30 pm.

- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and regional events.
- 7.30 The Duck Factory: "Way We Were": The studio's manager bumps into her ex-fiance and pretends she is having an affair with a young man.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Miami Vice: "Walk Alive": Another tale of drug-trafficking at the holiday paradise.
- 9.30 Private Benjamin: "Bye Bye Benjamin": Judy's father — with the full support of the comp leader — tries to convince his daughter to resume civilian life.
- 10.00 Hitchcock: "Stolen Heart": Who gets a transplant, the rich guy or the poor girl?
- 10.30 The Equaliser
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

**RADIO PROGRAMMES**

- 15 Pebbles' Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsreel
- 30 News Summary followed by The Idea of Europe (ex 29th Another Hero of Those Times)
- 45 Without Strings
- 0280 World News
- 09 British Press
- 15 Pebbles' Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by The Stuarts (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 The Cross and the Crescent
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Where Angels Fear to Tread
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 04 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Pebbles' Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by The Stuarts (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Headliners (ex 8th and 29th Sportsworld)
- 30 The Ken Bruce Show
- 1200 Radio Newswatch
- 15 Brain of Britain 1988
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 8th and 29th Recording of the Week)
- 45 (8th and 29th only) Sports-world
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 The Third Policeman
- 1500 Radio Newswatch
- 15 The Stuarts (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
- 45 English Songsmiths (ex 1st Glyndebourne -- The Early Years)
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 A Life at the UN (ex 22nd and 29th Whither Wisdom?)
- 30 The A-Z of Hollywood
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Beethoven
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newslett
- 30 Multirack 1: Top 20
- 1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
- 39 Stock Market Report
- 45 Pebbles' Choice

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0900 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1100 Easy Listening
- 1200 News
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin American Hour
- 1800 Pop
- 1900 Heller Sketcher
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Jazz Sound
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Music
- 0200 Closedown

**Urdu**

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behira Quail
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1925 Press Report
- 1940 Islamiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hamare Mehnat
- 2100 Closedown

**NIGHT CHEMIST**

- Al Istiqbal Pharmacy
- Al Safat Square
- Al Sharq Al Jadid Pharmacy
- Al Safat Souk, opp. Science Museum
- Hawalli and Nugra
- Al Najat Pharmacy
- Block 63, Plot 6, Hawalli
- Salma and Rumeithiya
- Al Nahda Pharmacy
- Baghdad St.
- Fahheel and Ahmadi
- Bastour Pharmacy
- Al Dabbous St., Qais Al Ghannim Bldg., Fahheel
- Juleeb Al Shuyukh
- Al Ayoub Pharmacy
- Shuyukh Souk Complex Riqa'
- Al Riqae' Pharmacy
- Property of Badr Al Salem
- Al Ali No. 12 Jahl
- Al Nour Pharmacy
- Al Matafi St., Abdul Aziz Al Nasrallah Bldg.

**PRAYERS**

Fajr	3.46 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.29 pm
Maghreb	6.34
Isha	7.58

## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

In order to have good soldiers, a nation must always be at war — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general — statesman (1769-1821).

## Baker will strengthen Bush campaign

By Michael Posner

**WASHINGTON.** (Reuter): Republicans are looking to outgoing Treasury Secretary James Baker to breathe new life into the struggling presidential campaign of Vice-President George Bush, who is lagging behind Democratic rival Michael Dukakis.

Bush's aides say there is nothing wrong with their organization but Baker should provide extra muscle in the run up to the Nov 8 presidential election.

President Reagan, saying "if there ever was a Reaganite you're it," announced on Friday that Baker was resigning his treasury post to manage Bush's campaign from Aug 17 — the day Bush is due to be nominated for president by the Republican Party convention in New Orleans.

Baker will be succeeded as treasury secretary by New York investment banker Nicholas Brady.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk commented: "Jim Baker will bring needed added supervision to the Bush for president campaign and I congratulate him on his appointment."

## Crackdown

He urged Baker to crackdown on any Bush aides for "peddling false and damaging rumours about governor Mike Dukakis to the media."

Bush has denied knowledge about any rumour spreading, an apparent reference to recent talk — denied by Dukakis — that the Democrat once had treatment for mental depression.

Bush's aides said that Baker, both a national and international figure, would be able to bring organisational skills and political experience to his effort to succeed Reagan in the White House.

He also will be able to give new direction to the campaign, often seen by analysts as floundering without focus.

Sheila Tate, Bush's spokeswoman, said Baker, who will carry the title "Campaign Chairman," would give new prominence to the presidential effort.

"He'll bring great depth and wisdom and experience and leadership," Tate said. "He's the vice-president's closest friend."

## Central American peace plan stagnant

By Alister Doyle

**TEGUCIGALPA.** (Reuter): A year after Central American presidents surprised the world by signing a regional peace accord, their plan has stagnated as guerrilla wars in the region continue to push up a death toll that already exceeds 100,000.

But each of the five Central American nations wants to keep working for peace under the plan, agreed in the Guatemalan town of Esquipulas on Aug 7, 1987.

"I keep insisting on the Costa Rican model, that seeking solutions through negotiation and dialogue is the only solution to Central American problems," Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the author of the plan who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, said on Friday.

The plan has had some successes — hundred of political prisoners have been released, democracy has been widely debated, talks between guerrillas and governments were held for the first time in Nicaragua and Guatemala and for the first time since 1984 in El Salvador.

## Break

But all the talks have broken down and prospects are bleak for a negotiated end to any of the conflicts in the region of 25 million people.

"There is no peace in El Salvador, there is no peace in Guatemala, and in Nicaragua there have been no deaths for five months, but not as a product of a stable and negotiated ceasefire," Arias said.

Any remaining enthusiasm for the plan reflects more the lack of alternatives than a belief that the plan, dismissed last year by President Reagan as "fatally flawed," might suddenly work.

The five presidents had planned to meet on Aug 7 to review progress in the Esquipulas plan, but decided it was not worth while.

Under the original document, ceasefires in guerrilla wars,

## Tehran launches diplomatic offensive

## Softer words winning Iran international acceptance

By John Baggaley

**TEHRAN.** (Reuter): A diplomatic offensive based on realism and softer words is winning Iran new international acceptance after years of isolation, diplomats in Tehran say.

"There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the moves to end isolation are not just temporary phenomena," said one foreign observer who has lived in Iran for eight months.

Diplomats said a flurry of new diplomatic links and groundbreaking visits showed an acceptance of Iran not seen since the 1979 siege of the American embassy, the eight years of war with Iraq, and charges that Tehran was involved in Lebanese hostage-taking.

"We have been waiting for long years to come to Iran to expand economic and other relations," said Renato Ruggiero.

## Behind

The Times Mirror/Gallup study of 8,421 people through July 24 showed Bush 10 points behind in every part of the nation, except the southeast where he trails by three.

Even the West, considered Republican territory, favours Dukakis in that survey which shows people associating themselves with the Democrats since the Iran-Contra scandal.

Mark Goodin, a spokesman for Bush, shrugs off the wide lead in the opinion polls, saying that Bush will take a big jump in the surveys after Republicans formally nominate him by acclamation in New Orleans.

That is seen as the jumping-off point in the campaign by Bush, who not only has been struggling in the opinion polls but has been kept virtually to his vice-president's desk, away from the campaign trail, by a cash shortage.

Since the Democratic convention, Dukakis has been attending to state business three days a week and has hit the road nationwide on extensive tours in an attempt to deliver on his pledge to bring competence to the White House.

## Life

Former Bush spokesman Pete Teeley, now a senior adviser, said Baker would pump new life into the Bush campaign.

"He brings strong management skills," Teeley told Reuters. "He brings focus to the campaign in that he will run the campaign — there will be no misunderstanding."

Despite the glowing appraisals of Baker, the 58-year-old Texan brings a mixed record as a campaign manager, with more major losses than wins.

In 1970, Baker managed Bush's futile bid to move from the US House of Representatives, where he served for two years, to the Senate.

## Foreign powers jockey for influence in Lebanese election

By Ghida Salaam

**BEIRUT.** (Reuter): Presidential hopefuls are rushing to the Syrian capital and roaming embassies to seek support in the forthcoming election in Lebanon.

The United States, Syria, Israel and Iran are the principal foreign powers jockeying for influence in the election, due by Sept 23, political analysts said.

But Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon, where it has 25,000 troops, has established itself in recent months as the leading force in determining the outcome, they said.

"The 1988 election is Syria's election," a senior government official said. "It will play a predominant and dynamic role whereas Israel will play a role of containment and Washington a conciliatory one," he added.

In the past four months, Damascus has imposed its authority over Beirut's once lawless southern suburbs by deploying troops there to quell inter-Shi'ite fighting.

In July, it backed pro-Syrian Palestinian dissidents in ousting fighters loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat from refugee camps in Beirut.

The consolidation of Syria's power has prompted Lebanese political and religious leaders to flock to Damascus in recent months for consultations over the Lebanese election.

The other four countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — frequently criticise Managua but rarely each other.

Nicaragua is the only country where there is a prospect for an end to the fighting, but this is largely due to a suspension of US military aid in February.

The Contras are virtually paralysed without aid. A precarious ceasefire has been in place in Nicaragua since March 23, and peace talks between the two sides aimed at ending the war in which at least 40,000 have died collapsed in June.

Nicaragua has grown increasingly impatient with the peace plan, feeling it has made most concessions. Last month it said its tolerance had ended, expelled eight US diplomats and clamped down on the domestic opposition.

**Accused**

Nicaragua accuses the United States and Honduras of trying to scrap the peace plan.

The Reagan administration has adopted a dual attitude to the peace plan, both supporting it while calling for new military and for the Contras. The US Congress is likely to vote next week on a humanitarian aid package for the rebels.

Italy's foreign trade minister, shortly after he arrived with a 50-man delegation on Wednesday.

Next week Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden will come to Iran, the first such visit in nine years since the Islamic Revolution. Australia has also agreed to join any UN truce observer force if a ceasefire in the Gulf war is implemented.

Both these countries are major trading partners of Iran but the Tehrān-based diplomats said the timing of the trips was significant.

"It's not only the chances of increased trade if the war ends, but also the fact they feel the time is right to come that is interesting," one Western diplomat commented.

Italy is Iran's third largest trading partner after Japan and West Germany. Two-way trade totals \$1.4 billion, mostly in Iranian oil, according to the Iran Economic Bulletin.

"If this is truly the political strategy pursued by Britain, then Iran is indeed grateful to the UK,"

the newspaper said.

Contacts between Britain and Iran have also borne fruit and this week London said it would soon send a diplomat of at least first secretary level to Tehran.

Relations between the two plunged last year after an Iranian diplomat was accused of shoplifting and a British diplomat said he was assaulted. Britain recalled its last remaining diplomat.

But this week Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher acknowledged her personal preference for better relations with Iran, during a Gulf stopover.

The English-language Tehran Times on Monday wrote of speculation that Thatcher would try, during visits to Oman and Bahrain, to have pressure exerted on Iraq to comply with UN ceasefire resolution 598.

"If this is truly the political strategy pursued by Britain, then Iran is indeed grateful to the UK,"

companies if US hostility ended. A neutral Western diplomatic source said the Iranians appeared to have gained diplomatically as Iraq apparently blocked a UN ceasefire by insisting on direct talks, which Tehran deems unacceptable until a truce is in place.

"Iran seems to have been making it easier for Iran to gain acceptance in diplomatic circles since Tehran is seen as ready for an unconditional truce," one source said.

**Mistrust**

Having accepted the year-old League Committee monitoring the war this week sided with Baghdad's call for direct talks and Iran has done nothing to hide its anger at influential Saudi Arabia.

It was easier for the West to accept Iran than it was for weaker states which felt threatened and regional acceptance of non-Arab Iran would be a long, slow affair, said one observer.

policy. France restored diplomatic ties with Iran on June 16 after an 11-month break.

And Tehran received a British delegation to discuss hostages pro-Iranian militants are holding in Lebanon.

London-Tehran relations eased in June when the brother of a British businessman jailed on spying charges was told he could visit him.

But Iran's diplomatic drive has achieved little with states on its doorstep.

The seven-member Arab League Committee monitoring the war this week sided with Baghdad's call for direct talks and Iran has done nothing to hide its anger at influential Saudi Arabia.

It was easier for the West to accept Iran than it was for weaker states which felt threatened and regional acceptance of non-Arab Iran would be a long, slow affair, said one observer.

## China puts brakes on reform programme

By Jane McCartney

PARIS:

France is settling down to cool centrist rule.

After his sweeping re-election in May, President Francois Mitterrand might have been expected to push through major initiatives. But in June, the voters refused to give the President's Socialists or any other party an absolute majority in parliament. So the President is refraining from any grand promises or ambitious reforms, and instead is stressing down-to-earth schemes for improving schools and public housing.

"Francois Mitterrand's re-election forcefully signalled that a more efficient and more just France now depends on political reconciliation," explained Michel Rocard, the new pragmatic prime minister in his first speech to the National Assembly earlier last month. "My priorities are not going to be those of one half of France against the other half."

Top-ranking officials at the presidential Elysee Palace see themselves taking part in a worldwide trend away from grand designs and toward pragmatic problem solving. Except for British leader Margaret Thatcher, West European conservatives such as West Germany's Helmut Kohl lack ideological fervor, and hard conservatism is fading even in the United States, as Ronald Reagan makes way for presidential candidates Michael Dukakis or George Bush. The Mitterrand advisers don't expect a radical new leftism to emerge either, in the US, France, or anywhere else.

**Opposition**

"I refuse to practice systematic opposition," Barre said on a television program. "It is always necessary to do things which teach good lessons."

Although the centrist refuse to enter a formal coalition agreement with the Socialists, an informal arrangement is emerging. Barre helped negotiate recent landmark accord of over the troubled territory of New Caledonia between pro-French European settlers and independence-seeking Melanesians. The compromise calls for the two adversaries to split responsibility for local government; it delays a decision on outright independence until a referendum can be held in 1988.

Another sign of an emerging centre-left coalition came in the formation of Rocard's new government. Although the key posts of finance, foreign affairs, defense, and interior remain in Socialist hands, half of the Cabinet, 23 ministers in all, are either members of other parties or have no party affiliation.

**Renationalization**

At home, Mitterrand makes

no mention of renationalizing

the five industrial groups

and seven banks privatized by

the conservatives. The two specific economic proposals are to create a guaranteed minimum income of £350 to £500 a month for up to half-a-million poverty-stricken unemployed, and to restore a mild wealth tax on personal assets of more than \$700,000. Neither measure scares businessmen.

"We're not thrilled with more

taxes and higher wages, but this

certainly represents no radical

programme," says Laurent

Ciceron of the French

Employer's Association. "It

could have been much worse."

Some uncertainty remains.

Orthodox Socialists want a steeper

wealth tax and a stronger

stimulus for economic growth.

Such policies scare the centrist

who threaten to swing back to

their traditional conservative

majority, the communists

and the socialists.

**Corruption**

For the past year, senior Chin

ese leaders have admitted that

the reform programme has

struck "stormy seas" but called

for specific changes, such as

removing agricultural subsidies

or cracking down on corruption.

Now, however, the Beidaihe

breakdown is the first public

indication that the problems are

even more serious, requiring, in

the eyes of some Chinese econo

mists, actions that strike at the

bedrock of a communist system,

including ending state ownership of certain sectors of the econ

omy.

That heresy was rejected out of

hand at the meeting.

"It seems these economists

By Paul Anderson

**HONG KONG (UPI):** For the southern Chinese, the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of Aug. 8, 1988 is generating excitement and expectation. It's the day of four eights.

Southerners generally are regarded as the most superstitious of the Chinese people. For them, eight is the luckiest number, and many see today's combination of four eights — the eighth day of the eighth month of 1988 — as a harbinger of extraordinary good fortune.

Even sceptics could hardly fail to be impressed that such an auspicious day falls in the year of the dragon. The dragon, supreme among the animals in the Chinese zodiac, is the symbol of good fortune and luck, as well as royalty.

Luck associated with the number eight comes from its pronunciation in Cantonese and other southern Chinese dialects — 'baat' — which rhymes with 'faat', the word for fortune or prosperity.

Such a connection may seem at best tenuous. But faith in lucky numbers or symbols is widespread among the southern Chinese, and for them there could be no luckier combination than a string of eights.

Hong Kong textile magnate Law Tung-Pong found the lure

## Hong Kong Chinese expect good luck on the day of four eights

**Births, marriages, lotteries are all expected to generate good fortune today, 8-8-88, the 'luckiest day of the decade.'**

of a single-digit 8 on an auto license plate so strong that he paid more than \$640,000 (\$5 million Hong Kong) for one at a transport department auction in February, earning a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

On a lesser scale, many of Hong Kong's 5.5 million people are devising plans to ensure that 8-8-88 will be their lucky day.

The hopes of most rest with the Hong Kong lottery, known as the Mark Six. It is holding a special draw at 8 p.m. today, adding a bonus of \$3,888,888 Hong Kong (\$498,575) to the regular first prize money, which is determined by the number of tickets purchased.

"For buying the Mark Six," said one civil servant when asked what he was doing for the lucky day. "I don't really

believe in all that, but you never know."

Chinese are famous around the world as gamblers and there is little doubt that the lottery will have a record day today.

Another way of ensuring good fortune is to schedule important events for a lucky calendar.

The marriage registry office said 278 couples had scheduled their nuptials for the auspicious day.

"It's a very big day for marriages," said department spokesman Stephen Chan. "On the average Monday, only 121 couples get married."

The new monthly magazine 'Emigrant' is aimed at the thousands of people planning to leave Hong Kong to seek their fortunes overseas before Britain hands the colony back to China in 1997.

The Bank of China, whose

massive new headquarters will soar over the Hong Kong skyline, hoped to be far enough along in construction to open some of the lower floors of the I.M. Pei-designed skyscraper Aug. 8.

But lady luck was not with the bank and the People's Republic of China has been forced to abandon the opening — which they now deny was ever planned.

A similar fate befell the colony's new light rail transit system. A rash of accidents during recent test runs forced an undetermined delay in the gala ribbon-cutting scheduled for Monday.

To keep all the hoopla in perspective, it must be noted that today would not be a special day at all if Hong Kong did not follow the Western calendar.

In the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, Monday is the 26th day of the sixth month, which has no special significance.

But many new businesses are scheduling openings Monday, including one that doesn't plan to keep its customers.

The obstetrician said several patients whose babies were due in early August have inquired about inducing labour so the child can be born Aug. 8.

The Bank of China, whose

who held a counter-demonstration, said the crowd was chanting: "Jewish money, Jewish money."

Another Baptist minister has offered to raise \$10 million (£6 million) to buy the film from Universal and destroy all the prints, asking: "Isn't that enough money for the blood and suffering of Christ?"

The National Council of Christians and Jews has publicly deplored the anti-Semitic turn that the protests have taken, and what they called "the all too familiar scapegoating of Jews." The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, Mgr Roger Mahoney, who admits that the Church may well find the film "morally offensive," called Mr Wasserman "a man of the highest integrity."

Religious critics who say they have seen early versions of the screenplay call it "a blasphemous attack on the Christian Church," alleging that the film depicts a frightened "wimp" of a Jesus, a deranged individual driven by lust who fantasizes about making love to Mary Magdalene, telling her: "God sleeps between your legs."

In one sequence, he tells his followers: "Here, take my heart," rips it out of his chest and hands it to them.

Universal Studios is hitting back at the critics, however. In an advertisement, in the form of a letter addressed to Mr Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, which ran as a full page in the Hollywood trade papers and Los Angeles and New York newspapers, it rejects his

offer to purchase the film, explaining it would "threaten the fundamental freedom of religion and self-expression promised to all Americans under the Constitution."

Such freedoms, the letter adds, protect us all. They are precious. They are not for sale.

The company also arranged a private screening in New York to which they invited selected religious leaders.

The fundamentalists declined, but some 30 others, including the Episcopal Bishop of New York, the Most Rev. Paul Moore, attended.

He said: "Overall, I had a very, very positive reaction. I saw nothing blasphemous in it."

If an initial survey of film distributors across the country is any indication, theatres are quite prepared to shun the picture if the controversy continues.

A representative of a chain of theatres in the Midwest affiliated with Universal Studios admitted that even the studio was not putting pressure on its distributors to show the film. "Who wants to fight all of Christianity over one film?" he said.

## Film gives rise to controversy

### Hollywood holy war on Christ film

By Ivor Davis

MARTIN SCORSESE'S film

*The Last Temptation of Christ* will not be released in the United States until September 23. Only a few people have seen it but already it has stirred up a holy war, with the skirmishes becoming uglier by the day.

So far, the Beverly Hills of Mr Lew Wasserman, chairman of the board of the powerful MCA parent company of Universal Pictures, has been picketed by the followers of a fundamentalist Baptist pastor.

Among them was a man depicting a bloodied Christ, carrying a cross and suffering the lashes of another man, wearing a business suit and glasses representing a studio executive not unlike Mr Wasserman.

#### Unfolded

While this pageant unfolded, a light plane flew overhead trailing a banner reading: "Wasserman fans Jew-hated with Temptation". (Mr Wasserman and the president of MCA, Mr Sydney Sheinberg, are both Jewish). Members of the Jewish Defence League,

known for his forays into con-

troversial material such as teen

pornography in *Hard Core* with George C. Scott, and political assassination in *Taxi Driver* with Robert de Niro. Willem Dafoe (of *Platoon* fame), plays Jesus, Barbara Hershey is Mary Magdalene, and Harvey Keitel plays Judas Iscariot.

Religious critics who say

they have seen early versions of the screenplay call it "a blasphemous attack on the Christian Church," alleging that the film depicts a frightened "wimp" of a Jesus, a deranged individual driven by lust who fantasizes about making love to Mary Magdalene, telling her: "God sleeps between your legs."

Scorsese, who once wanted

to become a priest, has been

trying to bring this story, adapted

from the novel by the Greek

author Nikos Kazantzakis, to

the screen for years.

The script is by Paul

Schrader, the product of a fun-

damentalist Protestant back-

ground in the Midwest, and

sity next week.

Tests at the University of

Arizona have been completed.

The three universities were

also sent two pieces of ancient

linen so that academics would

not know which had come from the

shroud, which is believed to

have covered Christ after the

crucifixion and is held at Turin

Cathedral.

Mr Sox said that he was sur-

prised how easy it was to tell the

sample from Turin, which

several authors have claimed

unequivocally to be from the

time of Christ.

He said most people were

expecting "nothing less than

the real." However, critics

show a date that is medieval or

later, then I recognise that we

have to look hard for the hand

of an artist.

Results of the tests, to be

collated at the British Museum,

are expected in October.

## Turin Shroud 'may be a fake'

By Andrew Morgan

AN American clergyman present at carbon-dating tests on a piece of the Turin Shroud implied recently that the material had been shown to be a fake.

The Reverend David Sox, an Episcopalian living in London, witnessed tests last week at Zurich University.

Mr Sox, who has written books sceptical of the shroud, said on The Sunday Programme on BBC Radio, "I think a lot of people will have a lot to answer for".

Other tests on the shroud are due to start at Oxford Univer-



An artist's impression of Jesus Christ after the crucifixion.

believed that the shroud would prove to be one of many fakes produced in northern Italy in the fifteenth century.

Mr Ian Wilson, author of The Turin Shroud, said: "Obviously, if the three centres

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS



**Aries (March 20 - April 18)**

You will be able to do something practical and positive. You are liable to lose interest in something that is still not finished, so beware. Leave yourself with enough time for your personal life. Be sensible.



**Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**

You will have to watch out for someone who is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. You should not allow things to fall behind. Nor should you just hope for the best. Be loyal.



**Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**

You will tend to be a little on the nervous side so try harder to keep out of trouble. Something upon which you have embarked will make excellent progress. You should not allow a hobby to become too engrossing. Be reliable.



**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**

You will be able to do something of which you thought you were not capable. You should not try to use force where charm has failed. You should not exaggerate or exceed the limits of propriety. Be magnanimous.



**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**

You should not allow yourself to be intimidated. Things are not quite as you would wish them to be but you will be able to face up to the facts. You must avoid going on a spending spree. Be less impatient.



**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**

You will find more goodwill towards others. You are rather too liable to lose sight of your objectives. Avoid allowing yourself to be distracted. Be sincere.

**Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**

Something you have been doing will show better results than you had hoped for. Others will be better disposed towards you. You will have to watch where you are going more carefully today. Be generous.

**Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**

You will know what to do in the circumstances. Do not allow anyone to try to steal your glory but do not think too highly of yourself.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**

You should try to show a little more goodwill towards others. You are rather too liable to lose sight of your objectives. Avoid allowing yourself to be distracted. Be sincere.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TUNE THOSE LITTLE GRAY CELLS

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

▲ 9 7 2

▼ K 18 5

◊ K 10

♦ Q 9 6 3

WEST



Never mind what the maps say, New Orleans is not in any real sense American. Climatically, temperamentally, . . . its deepest bond is with the Caribbean.

By Nik Cohn

LOUISIANA, A DREAM STATE: the bumper-sticker says it all. New Orleans is less a place than a narcotic and, like any other opiate, its stock-in-trade is illusions.

Prime among these is what locals call GOES, as in Garden Of Eden Syndrome. For upwards of a century, generations of tourist-trappers have been refining the myth of the City That Care Forgot, in which New Orleans is reduced to a glorified theme park, a series of stock happy-snaps — Mardi Gras, the French Quarter, Bourbon Street strippers flaunting topless on lacework balconies, jazz bands parading behind streetcars, steamboats adrift upon the muddy Mississippi. Paste all the clichés together and you have the complete. Big Easy, a moveable cajoloint that flees some \$2.2 billion from rubberneckers yearly.

For the natives, however, the picture is quite otherwise. Few ever venture within the Quarter except to work there. In truth, very few can afford to. Conventioneers may go swelling through a gumbo of conspicuous spending and more conspicuous debauch, but the daily mass reality — especially among the black 57 percent — is of want. Statistically, this is among the very poorest cities in America, perennially leader in the unemployment stakes, likewise in crime and disease, with some of the most noisome slums west of Naples. Desire, these days, denotes no streetcar but a "project", the unspeakable Bricks, in which 8,575 souls, 8,564 of them black, lie at rest.

And yet, for all the bitterness, the magic endures, inviolate. My friend Willie Pastrano, once light-heavyweight champion of Planet Earth, now a retired villain and all-purpose bar stool sage, has christened Le Mal Doux, this sweet sickness; and nobody seems to linger long without succumbing.

In my own case, there was not even a struggle. It is now 16 years since I first passed through, on what I fondly believed was a one-night stand. Addiction was instant and absolute, and I've never tried to kick it. For this is my natural homeplace: the weather suits my clothes.

What makes the sickness so sweet? The main symptom is languor, ease, driftage; an animal content. Like a fat cat at purr, one simply surrenders to the steam-heat and the humidity, the scented bayou sonnolence, the music, the bottomless oceans, the food — sweet suffering mother of us all, that food!

There is also the physical beauty. Away from the Quarter, which is doubtless picturesque but also a zoo, one moves everywhere through a southern dreamscape, indecent in its loveliness: backstreets riotous with azaleas and oleander, magnolia, tea-olive, jasmine; gargantuan live-oaks hung with greybeard Spanish moss; clapboard Creole cottages, called shotgun and camelbacks, of every known and unknown tint; elevated Golgothas, the Cities of the Dead; colonnaded Grecian mansions, linschack backwaters; and always, somewhere in back, the great slow-rolling river, Father of Waters: "One tough act to follow," as Willie Pastrano says, "And that's not whistling Dixie."

Indolence comes courtesy of the climate. New Orleans, built on marshland, sits some feet below sea-level and that's exactly how it feels living underwater, enwombed in soup. Drowning in the swamp smells, one doesn't breathe air so much as concentrated Essence of Miasma.

Still, it's on the streets, not in any clubs or confinements, that New Orleans pleasure attains its apotheosis. Nowhere else that I know of, not even Rio de Janeiro, carries hedonism so deep in its blood and bone. If you have it, flaunt it, it is only half the message. And if you don't, flaunt it harder, it is the rest.

It is, above all, a city of transformations: of self-inventions. In a reality so raw and impoverished masquerades are a needed release. "Lies, the best revenge," as Willie Pastrano says.

Any degree of meanness may be eluded, at least temporarily, by donning the right disguise. Small wonder then that Proteus, lord of chameleons, was among the first of Mardi Gras godheads, or that the Quarter has become a transvestite Shangri-La.

The jamborees and parades are numberless. Most of them

are quasi-religious in origin, most ardently pagan in spirit, and all revolve around the same basic rites — masks and fancy dress, the scattering of beads and fake pirate doubloons, mummery, musical marching and Bacchanal obeisance.

My own favourite is St Patrick's Day, which here lasts a week and a half. For the climatic cavalcade through the Irish Channel, a riverside shantytown, everything — lips, bouquets, even the beer — is dyed a nightmarish neon green and the grand marshal, usually a Roccafiora or a Bartholemey, pelts the crowds with spuds and cabbages.

Over the last decade, local R&B has lost many of its greatest masters. Professor Longhair, James Booker, Chris Kenner and Lee Dorsey are all dead. Still the backbeat struts righteous, the flame is very much alight. At Winnie's Lounge, a neighbourhood black bar, such stalwarts as Earl King, Jessie Hill and Ernie K-Doe come together every Sunday night, scrunched together on a bandstand the size of a welcome mat, there to wait until first light.

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## America's banana republic

one doesn't breathe air so much as concentrated Essence of Miasma.

The light is filtered amber and rose, as if strained through a shadeless window, and the streets seem to float on heat. Damp sucks out the marrow from one's bones, all sinew from the will. Then nothing is left but a beatific wallowing. "Dumb pursuit of pleasure," Willie calls it, "Even the mosquitoes snore."

Not that said pleasure is all easy greasy. Far from it. Self-indulgence in New Orleans is cultivated as a fine art, a vocation, only to be mastered by practice, practice, practice. From November through May, the only months which permit of human stirring, hardly a night slips away without some musical that can't be missed, nor any week without its own street festival.

The musical climate defines the romance with illusion, aforesaid. Decades of documentaries and most earnest treatises have taught that New Orleans, Birth Place of Jazz, remains its living shrine. In reality, however, this is a tale told strictly for trippers. Outside of hotel lobbies and Bourbon Street deadfalls, traditional Dixieland is now confined to Preservation Hall, a French Quarter cabaret cum mausoleum, where toothless memorialists quaver forth the good old ones for gaggles of pilgrim Europeans.

In fact, the city's truest music, as it's been these last 40 years, is rhythm and blues. Known as Cabbage Alley or Fatback, on account of its trademark 2/4 backbeat, the Crescent City style can best be absorbed at the annual Spring Jazz Fest, a megathon that features cajun zydeco, latin salsa, Tex-Mex, rockabilly, the blues — every downhome genre, in fact, but New Orleans jazz.

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pretence. Its masques were turned loose to act out whatever fantasies, assume whatever identities they might most deeply crave, to purge them for Lenten austerities. But somewhere the point went astray. Increasingly gobble up by commercial greed, carnival has been reduced to an exercise in gross-out. Now every year more than 100,000 aliens descend in a plague-host and, while residents flee for their lives, the central city is abandoned to Visigoths, with TV crews and admiring pursuant.

The built-in frivolity, at least in part, is a response to history.

From the moment of its 1718

founding, New Orleans was marked out for a most mighty

destiny. Its early rulers — French, Spanish and, after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, American — conceived it as the lodestar of the south. "Noth-

ing short of some dreadful

ern town, more driven, less deeply Catholic, might have pursued, the Louisiana defence was simply to shrug. Irony, self-mockery were more its style than woe; where loss could not be overcome, it had better be embraced. What lesson was learned? "Success comes and goes, only failure is forever," says Willie Pastrano, who should know. So Monius, God of Mirth, became the city's patron saint, also its pet love-child, more fondly to be cherished than any triumph. Masters of Disaster, the slogan scrawled on project walls proclaimed. And it was true, when it came to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, no place did it better.

Where history fails to explicate, simple geography may do instead. Never mind what the maps say, New Orleans is not in any real sense American. Climatically, temperamentally, also morally, its deepest bond is with the Caribbean.

Perhaps that is why its three abiding passions been for politics, gambling and ingestion.

Ideally, all three are combined. Thus the very finest of Crescent City rituals is the idle contemplation of the day's racing form and even idler debate of the season's civic election while propped up in some streetcorner Po' Bay bar, downing first a dozen of two of plump and sin-sweet oysters, then perhaps a pound of spicebowl crawfish and another of fatback buster crabs, the whole sluiced down with icy longnecks of Dixie beer.

Cabbage Alley Paradise! Admitted, politics may only be politesse for turpitude, gambling for loss, ingestion for massed piggery. But who's counting? In New Orleans, preciously few know how.

This is the natural fact: just so long as a body can earn a discreet \$100 for voting right in the morning, lose back \$90 at the Fair Grounds racetrack in the afternoon and still have enough, on the \$10 remaining, to treat itself right on File Gumbo and Shrimp Etoufee, Pickled Piglets, Dirty Rice and Mud Pie come nightfall, Louisiana will continue to be a bananas republic and proud of it. And all of its votaries, myself most devoutly included, will pray that snared by this sweet sickness, none of us ever get well.

In an attempt to "help keep Venice clean" the youth have recently been informed, by means of multilingual notices attached to litter-bins, that the eating of packed lunches in and around St Mark's Square is not allowed, on penalty of a £25 fine (a hefty coperto, even by Venetian standards).

But, poor things, where are they to eat their packed lunches? Every day tripper — and, sadly, many who stay longer — believes that St Mark's Square is Venice; that is all they know or think they need to know.

John Julius Norwich has evidence that 80 per cent of day trippers never put so much as a foot beyond the confines of the Piazza, so the news that the authorities have grown weary of sweeping old sandwich wrappers and Coke tins from the floor of the finest drawing room in Europe will leave them hungry and confused.

From Jammu to Dalhousie by bus

## Bumpy passage through India

By Michael Tuft

I DECIDED to go to India when the daily routine of the number 44 bus journey from Wandsworth to Holborn became too much. I reasoned that there must be better ways of spending my time than on a crowded bus crawling through a dirty, noisy city.

The overpowering image of Indian travel is, of course, the train. Yet many regions, especially in the mountains of the north, are accessible only by the infinitely less romantic bus. During the course of a three-month trip, I covered many hundreds of miles in the jolopies of the Indian State Bus Services.

This is an account of one typical trip: from Jammu to Dalhousie, a distance of just over 100 kilometres, which is scheduled to take eight hours and cost £1.25.

Having padlocked my rucksack to the roof, I boarded and indulged in the arcane craft of choosing a seat. (This applies only if you join a bus at the start of its route. Otherwise it's standing room only, and not much of that.) Choose a seat at the front and you'll be deafened by the engine and incessant blasts on the horn. Choose a rear seat and you'll be pummeled around like a dried pea.

Noxidous

Choose a window seat and there's no room for legs. Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze. Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four. Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke. There are no good seats on an Indian bus.

Although the bus averaged under 20 mph it contrived to give the impression that it was hurling along. We wove through the carts, cyclists and pedestrians that clutter even the most rural stretches of India's highways.

Figures published in the Indian press state that although India has only 1 per cent of the world's motor vehicles, it is responsible for 6 per cent of the world's motor fatalities. This is easy to believe.

Risky

Apart from the volume of potential obstacles on the roads, many roads have been hacked through the kind of harsh, mountainous terrain that makes any journey a risky business. The road to the former British hill-station of Dalhousie was a good example.

After three hours, the bus pulled into Pathankot, which marks the transitional point between the plains and the Himalayan foothills: a typical Indian town, with a typical bus depot, humming with activity.

In the heat, I sat and waited for the onslaught that would come when it was realised that a



Passengers prepare for a trip. Many regions especially in the mountainous north are accessible only by bus.

forward, resting his head between my shoulder blades.

The man to my right had his head tucked to my shoulder. A soldier in front had slung his hand over the back of his seat and it was resting on my knee. It was as one huge, sweaty blob that we made our way to Dalhousie, the temperature inside the vehicle never less than intolerable. I thought that there must be better ways of spending my time than sitting on an overcrowded bus as it made its way through a dirty, noisy town.

We were making good time when the tyre punctured. This

Having padlocked my rucksack to the roof I boarded and indulged in the arcane craft of choosing a seat ... choose a window seat and there's no room for legs.

Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze.

Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four.

Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke!

ers and two young sisters to look after. His pleas were totally ignored by the other passengers, who chatted among themselves. He collected his cards and moved on.

Next up was an old lady who sang Hindi songs and carried a portable shrine on a tray. She crept up the aisle daubing red paint on foreheads. Once a person was blessed, they were obliged to make a small donation. Next came a blind man, led by a young boy. Finally came one of the ascetic tramps known as "Sadhus", badly deformed and silent, his body being eloquent enough. To his appeal, the passengers were sympathetic.

After half an hour we were off again. The bus was packed to capacity and beyond. A Nepali in the seat behind leaned

## Viewing Venice without crowds

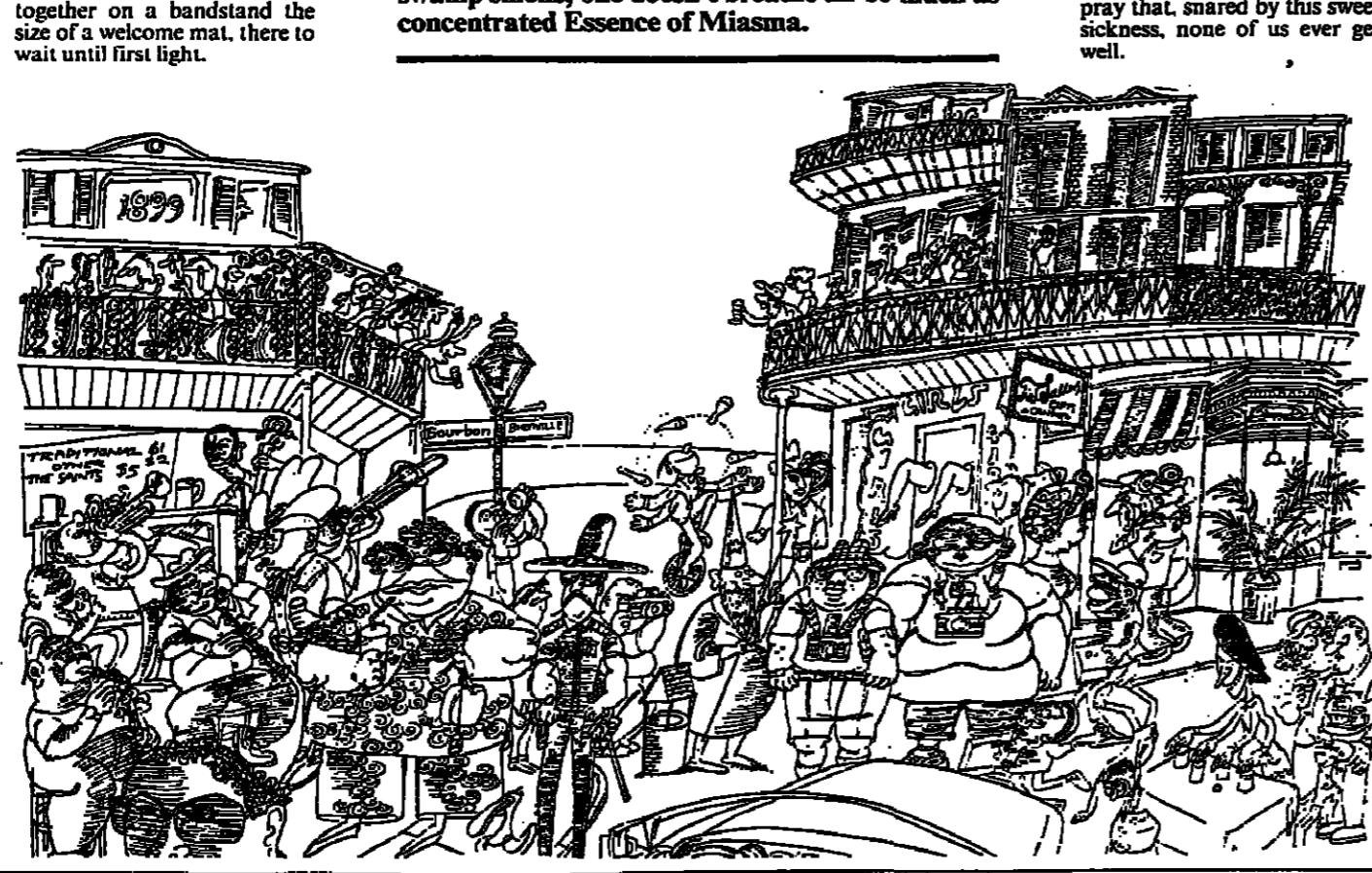
Even at the height of summer when the major sights of Venice are swarming, a walk of 100 yards or less from the Piazza or the Rialto can bring you to scenes of utter solitude.

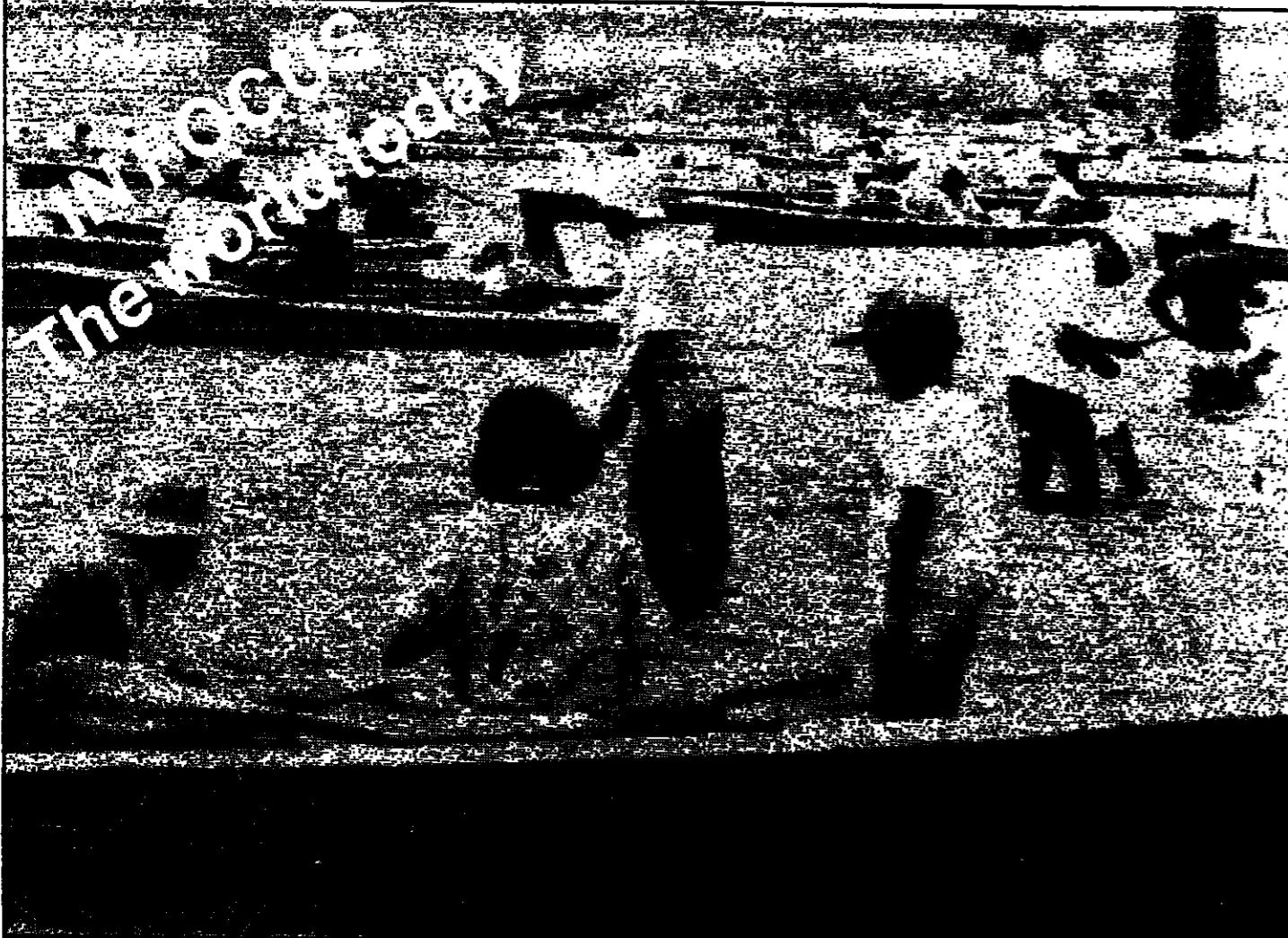
It is a mistake to be depressed by the crowds. There is a time to view the Piazza (early morning, after dark or, as I discovered, a brilliant Saturday afternoon in January when St Mark's basilica itself was host to all of five people) and a time to leave it alone; but even at the height of summer when the major sights of Venice are swarming, a walk of 100 yards or less from the Rialto or the Piazza can bring you to scenes of utter solitude.

Venetian Domestic Architecture by Egli Renata Trincanto (less than £5, published by Canali Books) at good bookshops, e.g. Calle Larga 22 Marzo, San Marco 2087 (near San Moise). It describes, with effective line drawings and plans, 90 buildings in the Castello and Dorsoduro districts. Because much of Venice's minor architecture would be of major interest elsewhere, anyone with the least enthusiasm for buildings and townscape will find much to enjoy.

A third useful item is the Carta Venezia, a card which entitles the holder to reduced price tickets on the vaparetto. For example, the current standard fare is 1,500 lire, about 75p, but the price with the carta is 500 lire. The card costs 10,000 lire and is valid for three years, but can easily pay for itself even in one visit. The fee and three passport photographs must be taken to the ACTV office at Piazzale Roma where the carta will be issued over the counter.

A first visit to Venice may be better planned out of season. The tourist board is keen to promote Venezia Inverno as più preciosa, più conveniente — that does not include the February carnival week when the place can grind to a complete halt — but at Easter and in the summer there are always empty churches and deserted campi to escape to.





THOUSANDS of people crowded the Edo River, in Tokyo, to enjoy a sunny Sunday. More than five hundred row-boats occupied the river. (Reuter wirephoto)



FORMER White House aide Oliver North (right) talks with guests at a fund-raiser for Congressman Dan Burton (left). North, a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal, will go on trial after November's American presidential election. (Reuter wirephoto)



US SECRETARY of State George Shultz puts a ball during a game in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. Shultz is on an official visit to Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)



SYED HUSSAIN (right), the representative of a north Afghanistan guerrilla council, announced at a news conference in Islamabad yesterday a council proposal for the creation of an army to capture cities from the Soviet-backed Afghan government. To his left is another council member Syed Ahmad Haibeen. (Reuter wirephoto)



POLICE load into a van one of the anti-abortion protesters arrested in Atlanta outside the Midtown Hospital, an abortion clinic. (Reuter wirephoto)



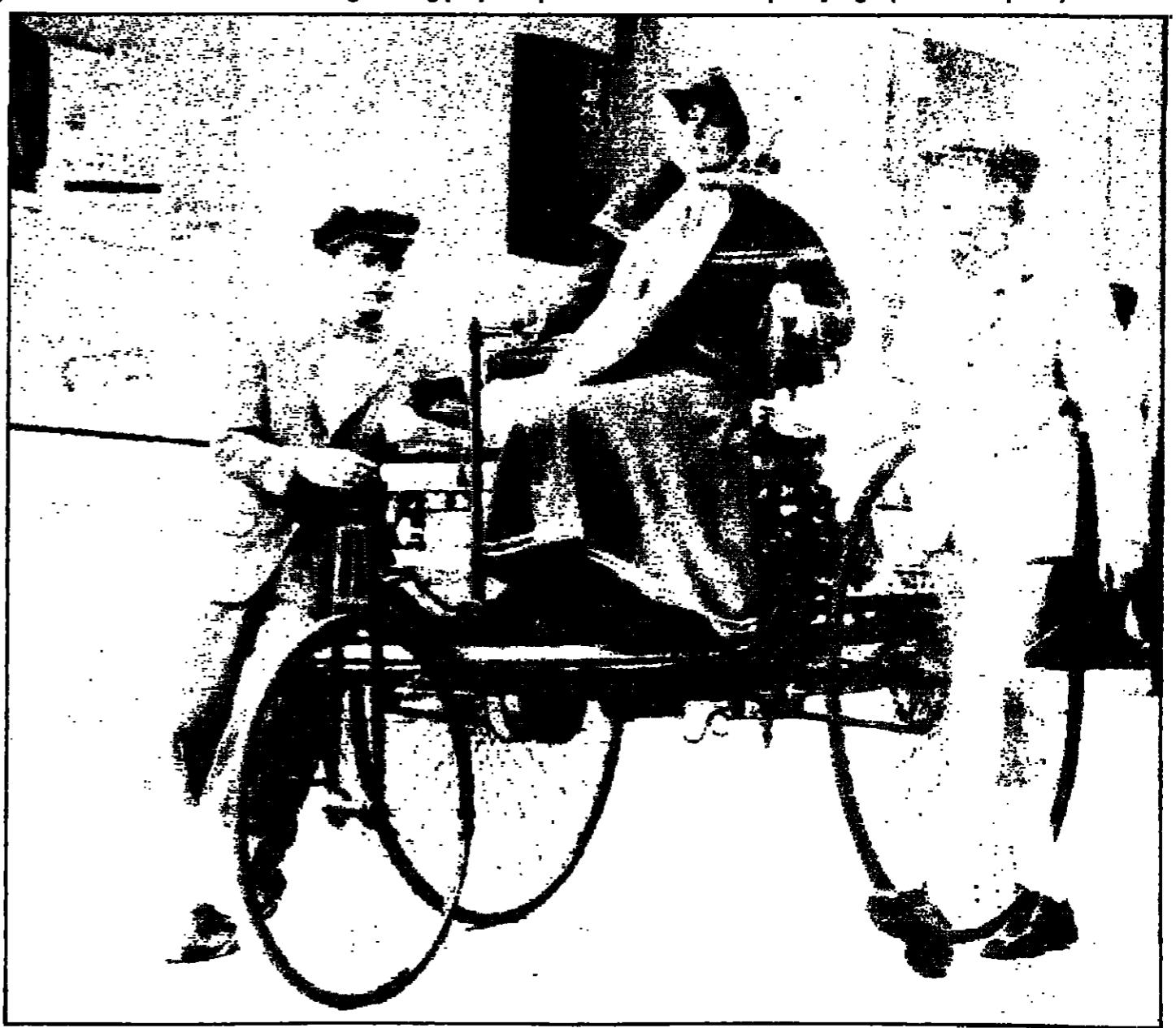
RICHARD MURPHY, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, (left), met yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in occupied Jerusalem. (Reuter wirephoto)



OSCAR MPETHA (right) believed to be South Africa's oldest political prisoner, marked his 79th birthday under police guard in Cape Town's Groote Schuur Hospital. His children, grandchildren and over a hundred friends celebrated Mpetha's birthday at a gathering (left) in Cape Town's black township of Nyanga. (Reuter wirephoto)



FAMOUS Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi arrives at the Red Cross ball in Monte Carlo accompanied by his wife (left) and daughter Nabila. (Reuter wirephoto)



BERTA BENZ, wife of the German inventor Carl Benz, one hundred years ago drove the first car in the world, the Benz-Motorcar, 106 kms from Mannheim to Pforzheim. In commemoration, 165 old-timers and the first car, the Benz-Motorcar, with three actors in costumes of the time, drove along the same route on Saturday again. (Reuter wirephoto)

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fed likely to raise interest rates to contain inflationary pressures

## Dollar firm on signs economy still growing strongly

LONDON, Aug 7. (Reuters): Boosted by data showing the US economy is still growing strongly, the dollar starts this week at its highest for almost a year against the West German mark.

Dealers, wary of more central bank market intervention to steady the dollar's climb, bought the currency on Friday after US employment figures showed a record rise in new non-farm jobs in July even though the overall jobless rate edged up.

### Higher

The dollar was helped by that news and by speculation that the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, might have to raise domestic interest rates to contain inflationary pressures.

But Wall Street weakened in

thin trading on concern that higher rates would push up the cost of borrowing to industry.

"One of the major constraints to the Fed not acting already to tighten credit is that the dollar was so very, very strong and any tightening would only push it higher," said economist Joe Liro of S.G. Warburg and Co. in New York. "They have a dilemma on their hands."

### Dealer

The dollar closed in New York on Friday at 1.8945 marks compared with 1.8920 in London and 1.8798 in New York on Thursday. It was last this high in mid-August 1987.

"The near-term news is definitely bullish for the dollar," said Doug Madison, a corporate trader for Bank of America.

In London, before trading finished in New York on Friday, a dealer for a US bank branch said: "The dollar just doesn't seem to want to go down. If it doesn't go through 1.90 marks tonight (in New York), people are going to come in Monday wanting to buy it."

Some US economists argue that a rising dollar may retard exports and slow the economy. "That may reduce some pressure from inflation, but it may compound one of the nation's most serious problems — the trade deficit," one said on Friday.

Traders recalled that, a year ago when the dollar was at similar levels, news of a large

meanwhile, dealers said US financial markets on Friday took calmly the news that Treasury Secretary James Baker was stepping down to run Vice-President George Bush's presidential campaign. The move had been rumoured for some time.

Nicholas Brady, chairman of investment bankers Dillon Read and Co., was nominated to succeed Baker. Brady headed a White House panel that studied last October's stock market crash.

On Friday, the dollar also strengthened against the Japanese yen and the pound sterling, but it has been higher against both in the past month. It ended in New York at 133.88 yen from 133.03 on Thursday and at \$1.6895 to a pound from 1.7068.

### Move

Gold, which dealers said was under pressure from the firm dollar and producer selling, closed in Hong Kong on Saturday at \$432.10 an ounce, slightly down from Friday's finish of \$432.15 in New York and \$432.50 in London.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.47 points on Friday at 2,119.13 — a fall of 9.6 on the week. Volume

was thin — it was the second slowest trading day of the year.

"There was basically lacklustre sideways action where today, not much went on," said William King, a trader for the US branch of Nikko Securities. Most traders foresaw little action in the coming week with many brokerage staff on summer holidays.

In London, the FTSE index of 100 leading shares closed on Friday 6.2 points up at 1,875.9 — a rise of 22.3 on the week.

The world's biggest share market, in Tokyo, eased back in half-day trading on Saturday as a result of profit-taking, dealers said. The Nikkei average fell 61.20 points to 28,362.18 after setting an all-time record of 28,423.38 on Friday.

## OECD oil consumption on the rise

PARIS, Aug 7. (KUNA): Oil consumption in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries rose by an estimated two per cent in the second quarter of this year to 35.1 million barrels per day (BPD) compared with 34.4 million BPD in the same period in 1987, according to preliminary data released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

For 1988 as a whole, the Paris-based IEA is forecasting consumption to increase to an average of 36.4 million BPD, that is 0.3 million BPD more than in the previous year, provided the OECD countries experience a growth rate of 3 per cent.

Oil supply to the world, communist countries not included, is estimated to have risen to 49.8 million BPD in July, 0.8 million BPD more than in June, mainly due to a 0.3 million BPD increase from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and an assumed higher seasonal imports from the communist bloc of 0.4 million BPD, the IEA said.

OPEC's crude oil output in July averaged 18.8 million BPD, compared with 18.5 million BPD in June, with Iran and the UAE accounting for the 0.3 million BPD increase. All the other OPEC members maintained the June level production.

### Exhibition

OECD output stood at 16.5 million BPD, that is 0.1 million BPD more than in June, with the explosion on the Piper Alpha platform in the North Sea preventing the expected rise in the July production.

The Piper Alpha tragedy is expected to lower Britain's production by 0.2 million BPD in the last half of this year, IEA said.

Developing countries production in July rose by 0.1 million BPD to an average of 9.4 million BPD, while Communist countries net exports to the OECD in July is estimated at 2.4 million BPD, a 0.4 million BPD increase from the June level.

## Subroto to visit Kuwait

OPEC secretary-general Dr Subroto is scheduled to pay a visit to Kuwait in the coming few weeks, a local newspaper has reported.

The daily said that Subroto's visit appears to be called for by the OPEC committee on prices which met in Lausanne, Switzerland early this month. Subroto has visited the UAE and met with Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan who briefed him about UAE's production quota last week.

The five-man committee will hold a meeting in September to discuss results of Subroto's tour to some OPEC states and developments on oil markets, the daily said in a dispatch from Lausanne.

In a departure statement, Venezuelan oil minister told the journalists that this was his last meeting because he wants to resign as minister and run in the party elections which will be held in Venezuela shortly.

## New airline services link

DUBAI, Aug 7. (Reuters): Emirates Airline said today it would start a twice-weekly service to Damascus.

A spokesman for Dubai's government-owned carrier told Reuters the Syrian capital would be the 12th destination to be served by Emirates, which began operating in 1985.

The inaugural Boeing 727 flight would leave later today.

Royal Brunei Airlines will begin a twice-weekly service to Dubai on Monday.

## Earnings from equity offerings decline

## Deutsche Bank profit climbs on stock gains

FRANKFURT, Aug 7. Deutsche Bank AG said its first-half operating profit climbed 35 per cent compared with one-half of its 1987 operating profit because of rising interest earnings and improved earnings from stock trading, according to the Wall Street Journal.

West Germany's largest commercial bank didn't disclose precise figures, but analysts said the results were slightly higher than expected and better than earnings reported by the bank's leading domestic rivals, Dresdner Bank AG and Commerzbank AG.

Deutsche Bank shares advanced 1.80 Deutsche marks (96 cents) yesterday on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange to DM483 (\$258.70).

The bank's first-half partial operating profit, which excludes profit from trading in its own account, edged up slightly to DM381.8 million from DM381.1 million, which is half of 1987's partial operating profit.

In the first six months, net interest earnings climbed 6.5 per cent to DM2.33 billion from DM2.18 billion, half the 1987 amount, while free earnings rose

the example of other West German banks, the Deutsche Bank is including profit from price bonuses that it receives from bond placements in its commission earnings, which is part of the partial profit figures.

In the past, bonuses have been treated as trading profit, which is excluded from partial profits.

Because of this change, first-half partial profit can't be compared with figures for the year-earlier period, when the partial result stood at DM666.1 million.

For the group, total operating profit rose 24 per cent, but partial profit was 2 per cent lower compared with one-half of the 1987 result, Deutsche Bank said. Again, it didn't disclose precise figures.

### Increase

The first-half increase comes after a steep drop in 1987 earnings, when shrinking interest margins and heavy losses during the October stock market crash pushed Deutsche Bank's operating profit down 34 per cent.

Deutsche Bank said the accounting change is bloating its partial profit figures. Following

1.8 per cent to DM898.2 billion from DM 882.5 billion. Spending on personnel and equipment, meanwhile, increased 6.9 per cent to DM 2.34 billion from DM2.19 billion. All figures are adjusted for the new accounting practice.

While earnings from equity offerings declined because of a dearth of new issues in the first half, this drop was more than offset by higher earnings from bond placements and investment banking, the bank said.

Trading profit rose steeply because of the strong recovery on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and other major stock markets since the beginning of the year, Deutsche Bank said. Earnings from currency and precious metals trading were little changed from a year earlier, the bank added.

The bank said it is optimistic for the second half, but didn't give a profit forecast.

"These are very good results," said Stephen Lewis, an analyst at Salomon Brothers Inc. in London. "There was a bounce back from 1987's partial operating profit adjusted for a change in accounting rules, the bank said in an interim report.

Deutsche Bank said the accounting change is bloating its partial profit figures. Following

been sold at a profit."

With this process largely completed, Lewis said he expects operating profit to climb at a slower pace in the second half. Nonetheless, the gain is likely to be steep, and because Deutsche Bank has little need to boost its reserves for loans to developing countries, the bank has the option of putting most of its additional profit into net profit, he said.

Barings a large boost in provisions, group net is likely to rise 10 per cent or more from DM670 million in 1987, he said.

Lewis estimated that in the first half, total group operating profit rose to DM1.78 billion from DM1.44 billion, which represents half of his estimate for total 1987 operating profit.

For the group, total business in the first half climbed 4.5 per cent to DM284.6 billion from DM272.3 billion at the end of 1987.

For the parent bank, business volume increased 9.9 per cent to DM1.83 billion from DM1.68.7 billion, and the amount of total credits extended was up 12 per cent to DM115.8 billion from DM103.2 billion.

## Turkish inflation hits highest level since '81

ANKARA, Aug 7. (Reuters): Turkish retail inflation hit 75.5 per cent in July, its highest annual level since 1981, the State Institute of Statistics said on Thursday.

The figures would put further pressure on Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to tighten unpopular austerity measures announced in February to stabilise the economy and a rapid depreciation of the Turkish lira, bankers said.

### Prices

Inflation appeared to have peaked in May but instead prices continued to rise 2.2 per cent in June and 2.8 per cent July compared to a drop of 0.1 cent and a rise of 1.9 per cent last year.

Officials from the State Planning Organisation declined to comment on why annual inflation had risen to 75.5 per cent compared to 37.7 per cent at the same time last year.

Price increases were highest in Mediterranean resort areas, where a 39 per cent increase in the number of tourists this year has pushed up fresh food and other prices.

## Ecuador may tighten controls on oil firms, raise prices

QUITO, Aug 7. (Reuters): Rodrigo Borja, who takes office as Ecuador's President next week, is likely to encourage foreign oil investment, tighten controls on oil companies and raise petrol prices quickly, oil analysts and executives say.

"The message we're getting is that existing contracts will be honoured but there will be closer controls," Michael Frost, head of Conoco in Ecuador, told Reuters.

Oil executives and analysts said they expected the Borja government to check more carefully than previous administrations that foreign oil companies abide by the regulations of their contracts.

Analysts said the new government was likely to restructure the Ecuadorian State Oil Corp (CEPE), which is facing grave financial difficulties.

The manifesto of Borja's Democratic Left (ID) party says it aims to strengthen CEPE and boost its efficiency.

Analysts said one of the first acts of Borja's government is likely to be to raise petrol prices

even at the risk of strikes and social unrest.

CEPE, the recipient of petrolium revenues, receives an unrealistically low income, said Walter Spurier, a Guayaquil-based oil analyst who edits the economics journal Analysis Semanal.

A gallon of petrol in Ecuador costs 90 sures (16 US cents).

Acting head of CEPE, Rafael Ulloa, told the independent paper El Comercio on Monday the company's deficit would reach 11.9 billion sures (\$23.8 million) at the end of this year.

The deficit is high because of the low petrol prices and because oil export revenues go directly to the Central Bank, with only a small quota assigned to CEPE, analysts said.

### Companies

Spurier told Reuters the government's handling of oil companies depended largely on whom Borja chooses as the next energy minister.

Under the constitution, the current Energy Minister, Fernando Santos Alivite, must step down when the new government takes office.

TOKYO, Aug 7. (Reuters): The government issued an optimistic report on Japan's economy yesterday, but officials said the gap between rich and poor was growing and urged the country to extend economic benefits to all its people.

In its annual White Paper, the economic planning agency said Japan had made great achievements economically, but the general public had yet to feel a solid sense of prosperity.

"When we look at the Japanese economy at this point in time, it is almost in an ideal situation," said a senior agency official, commenting on the document to reporters.

"But not everything is rosy. Land prices have skyrocketed as the domestic financial markets have been deregulated. Land and stock asset values have grown," he said.

### Disparity

"There is a growing disparity in Japan between those who own wealth, and those who do not," he added.

Relatively high domestic prices, long working hours and poor housing conditions were

among the main factors leading many people to think they were not benefiting enough from the expanding national economy, said the Paper, which the cabinet accepted as government policy on Friday.

The 524-page White Paper said Japan had achieved strong economic growth in the fiscal year ended last March.

Robust housing investment, consumer spending, and a 6,000 billion yen (\$45 billion) emergency economic package adopted in May last year, had pulled the economy out of a slump triggered by the rapidly rising yen, it said.

### Efforts

The agency said a high yen had forced Japan to restructure its economy and companies had made strenuous efforts to adapt themselves to changed business circumstances, turning to the domestic market and away from exports for their profits.

Industries such as distribution, transportation, telecommunications, construction and agriculture, needed to be opened further to fair competition, it said.

## The use of coal will create environmental problems

## Indonesia weighs merits of nuclear power

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug 7. (AP): Indonesia has plenty of oil, natural gas, coal and other sources of energy for current needs, but is considering a nuclear power plant for the day when its resources won't suffice.

Supporters of the nuclear option say there is little choice since electricity demand on the main island of Java is expected to increase more than six-fold by the year 2015. Java accounts for more than 60 per cent of the population of 170 million and 80 per cent of energy consumption.

Opponents insist that alternative energy sources should be enough and cite safety and environmental objections. They contend that a country burdened with \$40 billion of foreign debt can't realistically spend another billion or so on nuclear power.

Three experimental nuclear reactors already operate at Bandung in west Java, Yogyakarta in central Java, and at Serpong, 30 kilometres (19 miles) southwest of Jakarta. All are for research

and none feed power into the national grid.

Officials of the National Atomic Energy Agency (BATAN) say Serpong is the third-largest neutron-producing reactor in the world, after Grenoble in France and Brookhaven in the United States.

Subsidised by West Germany and opened last August by President Suharto, the 30-megawatt Serpong reactor is for research on fuel elements and processing of radioactive waste, and produces radioisotopes for food preservation.

# Higher interest rates not inevitable: Baker

WASHINGTON, Aug 7. (Reuter): Departing Treasury Secretary James Baker praised the Federal Reserve Board's monetary policy and said he does not think the central bank has signalled that higher interest rates are inevitable.

Interviewed on television, Baker was asked if the Fed will be forced to raise rates in this election year. He said lower interest rates were desirable but, not at the expense of higher inflation.

"In saying that I am not acknowledging that that is what the Fed has said they will do because I don't think they have," Baker, who has announced his resignation effective August 17 to lead Vice-President George Bush's campaign for president, praised the job the Fed has done with the economy.

"I think the Fed has done an extraordinarily good job of maintaining a balance between preserving growth on the one

hand and being vigilant against inflation on the other," Baker said.

He defended Bush's pledge that if elected he will not raise taxes for four years despite huge federal budget deficits.

"I think it is a responsible position to take based on what I know after seven and a half years in government and what happens when revenues are raised. They don't go to deficit reduction," Baker said.

He said Bush's plan not to raise taxes would be combined with a selective freeze on government spending that will permit such Bush proposals as child care assistance and restoring tax breaks on capital gains.

Baker added that those programmes did not represent an "exorbitant sum of money."

Baker explained that under Bush's proposal of a so-called flexible freeze spending limitations would not be across the

board but would be done with discretion.

He said the federal budget deficit has been declining more rapidly than was anticipated because of limits on spending increases already in place.

Baker's long-awaited departure to join the Bush campaign was announced on Friday by President Reagan who praised Baker and said he will nominate Wall Street executive Nicholas Brady as Treasury Secretary.

## Economy will grow at least 2.5pc this year

# W. German capital outflow hits record \$29.6b

FRANKFURT, Aug 7: Capital has been flowing out of West German investments at an unprecedented rate, helping to explain why the Bundesbank has been raising interest rates to prop up the Deutsche mark, reports Wall Street Journal.

The West German central bank Thursday said the nation's balance of payments showed a record net capital outflow of \$55.5 billion Deutsche marks (\$29.6 billion) in the first half, more than triple the year-earlier's DM16.9 billion. The reason: A broad swing in long-term capital transfers to a net outflow this year from a net inflow a year ago.

### Investors

Economists say investors are leaving Deutsche mark instruments in pursuit of higher interest rates abroad, particularly in the US and UK. The Bonn government's plans to impose a 10 percent withholding tax on West German domestic bonds prompted many West German and foreign investors to put their money in foreign fixed-income securities.

The widening deficit in the capital account underscores policy makers' fears that an exodus of capital from West German investments is weakening the Deutsche mark and raising potential for imported inflation

as foreign goods become more expensive.

"We're not worried about the growing capital deficit because we're losing capital as such, but because of the effect it's having on our currency in foreign-exchange markets," a Bundesbank official said. In addition to fears of imported inflation, he said the central bank believes a weakening currency impedes West Germany's pledge to help reduce world trade imbalances by bringing down its huge trade surplus.

The pace of capital flight accelerated in June, with net outflow surging 42 per cent to DM13.9 billion from DM9.8 billion in May. And it was in June that the Bundesbank began tightening its monetary policy with a series of interest-rate increases. These included 1/2 percentage point jumps in its discount and Lombard rates as well as a cumulative one-point increase in its one-month securities repurchases agreements.

### Outflows

West German officials are particularly troubled by a shift in long-term capital transfers in the first half of 1988 to a net outflow of DM5.6 billion from a net inflow of DM18.7 billion the year before.

The reason is that the reversal reflects not only a flight from West German securities but also an emerging pattern of disinvestment in West German industry.

Economists also say the Deutsche mark has been hurt by market expectations of a weakening West German economy next year, even though growth has been accelerating so far this year.

Recent economic indicators

tend to support government predictions that the West German economy will grow at least 2.5 percent this year, after expanding only 1.7 per cent in 1987.

For instance, the economics ministry reported Thursday that June order inflow to the manufacturing industry rose by a real, seasonally adjusted 0.9 per cent from May, and by a real or inflation-adjusted, 8.5 per cent from June 1987.

In a two-month comparison, which isn't as sensitive to short-term fluctuation, May-June order bookings rose 1.5 per cent from the preceding two-month period and were up 11 per cent from a year earlier. The economics ministry said May-June orders from abroad were up 13 per cent on the year, while domestic orders rose 9.6 per cent.

And, despite the Bundesbank's inflation fears, the government said West Germany's annual inflation rate still was running at only 1 per cent in July.

Unemployment continues to darken the economic landscape, however. The Federal Labour Office reported July's unemployment rate stood at 8.6 per cent in July, when 2.2 million were reported to be out of work. The July rate was up from 8.4 per cent in June, but eased slightly from 8.7 per cent in July 1987.

# Drilling set to see if Paris sits on oil

PARIS, Aug 7, (AP): Oil producers are hoping that the city of light, already a cultural and archaeological treasure trove, might also yield oil.

On Tuesday, Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine is to begin drilling an exploratory oil well on the southern edge of Paris at Ivry-Sur-Seine — the first of several wells in an exploration campaign which includes the city centre.

"I don't think Paris will ever be Houston," said Jean Perrot, Elf's assistant director of exploration in France. "But there is still oil to be found in the Paris basin."

The basin is an area spanning 50,000 square miles (129,500 square kilometres) from the capital to the West German border.

### Reserves

Exploration surged in the Paris basin after the discovery in April 1983 of extensive oil deposits at the Chaunoy field, in a rural region about 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of the capital.

The Ivry site, barely a mile (about two kilometres) outside the city limits, is being explored under a permit awarded in December 1985 to Elf, Total Compagnie Francaise des Petroles and British Petroleum.

The 587 square miles (1,520 square kilometres) covered by the permit includes the city of Paris.

It will take as much as four years to determine whether Ivry contains marketable reserves, and whether they might extend inside the city. But it is quasi-certain that even with a total failure in Ivry, there will be other exploratory wells, Perrot said.

"Overall, we definitely will drill an exploratory well, likely before the end of the year."

In their exploration campaign, the companies say they have already spent more than the 70 million francs (about \$11.6 million) required under the five-year permit, mostly for seismic tests.

There are currently more than 1,000 exploratory wells in the Paris basin, which produces nearly two-thirds of France's modest oil output, also drawn from the Aquitaine region of southwestern France and, minimally, from Alsace on the eastern frontier.

But Ivry is the first well to be drilled so close to the capital itself.

### Studies

"If we are encouraged by Ivry," said Elf spokesman Alexis Poutchkovsky, "we will be encouraged to do more studies of Paris."

"We could easily find locations" for derricks, he said. "Look at the number of wells in Los Angeles and Houston."

Oil derricks would not rival the Eiffel Tower for attention. Experts see stadium areas, disused factories or even discreetly moored boats on the Seine river as possible sites for drilling.

"We are looking at all solutions," Poutchkovsky said.

Limited seismic readings of the faults were carried out in 1986 when specially equipped trucks sounding out the city depths down the Champs Elysees while Paris slept.

More extensive seismic readings showed favourable geological conditions in Ivry, nearby Orly, Chenevieres, to the east, and Roissy, to the north, according to Elf and Total, the two operators on the permit which gives Elf 50 percent, Total 35 percent and British Petroleum 15 percent.

To the uninitiated, exploring for oil in the highly urbanised Paris region may be akin to searching for water in a desert.

But chances of finding a gusher may be higher than in Texas.

### Discovered

Industry specialists say the standard 1-10 success ratio climbs to between 1.5 and 1.6 in the Paris basin.

"You will never find a giant in the Paris basin," said Poutchkovsky, but there are 40 million tons of known reserves.

France knew it had oil centuries ago when Alsatian miners caught drippings buckets.

The Paris basin's first well was discovered in 1958, but it was not until the Chaunoy find by Esof S.A., the French subsidiary of Exxon Corp., that the industry took serious notice.

About 15 companies were operating in the region at the time of the Chaunoy discovery. Today there are as many as 90, many of them foreign.

Triton, a subsidiary of Triton Energy Corp. of Dallas, has been established in France since 1980. The first foreign company to operate in the Paris basin, it now ranks No. 4 overall with a production rate of 10,000 barrels a day, or 400,000 tons a year, according to Triton. France's director of exploration Emmanuel Mousset.

### Record

France had a record year in 1987, producing 3.2 million tons of oil, a small amount compared with its 66.4 million tons of imports.

Industry executives say costs of extracting the crude are higher than in the United States and benefits remain marginal.

"Exploration is a long affair. To recover investments is a long process and we are now beginning to recover ours," said Triton's Mousset.

The paper urged OPEC to resolve its long-standing problems saying:

"Now that peace is a distinct possibility it has to wrest the initiative in lost to the spot market through greater unity within the organisation and honest action."

**OPEC urged to solve its long-standing problems**

ABU DHABI, Aug 7, (KUNA): A United Arab Emirates English-language daily today blamed a game by spot-market traders for causing a drop in oil prices following OPEC's meeting in Lausanne and said it was unconcerned with market factors.

"It is said that oil traders have been influenced by two factors: slow progress towards peace in the Gulf and the current oil glut," the Dubai-based Khaleej Times said in an editorial.

"People pushing down prices may be those who believe that with peace Iran and Iraq will become aggressive oil producers in order to finance their reconstruction projects," the paper said.

But it stressed "commonsense suggests that the two countries cannot afford to indulge in that luxury."

The Khaleej Times pointed out "OPEC problems are more fundamental" than could be resolved by a five-man panel.

The organisation, it said, has failed to provide stances in time referring to the question of the UAE's quota.

The paper urged OPEC to resolve its long-standing problems saying:

"Now that peace is a distinct possibility it has to wrest the initiative in lost to the spot market through greater unity within the organisation and honest action."

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GULF BANK	0.435	0.465	0.465	0.440	3370000	102
COMMERCIAL BB	0.325	0.350	0.350	0.330	4640000	167
AHLI BANK	0.410	0.425	0.430	0.410	2180000	86
B.K.M.E	0.400	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.R.E.B.	0.455	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
BURGAN BANK	0.325	0.345	0.350	0.325	4650000	188
K.F.HOUSE	0.530	0.550	0.560	0.530	2340000	104

## INVESTMENT SECTOR

KUT INV. CO.	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	40000	1
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.I.I.C.	0.172	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
CON.FACILITIES	0.490	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
AHLIAN INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
I.F.A.	0.102	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INV. PEARL KUT	0.112	0.116	0.116	0.114	2400000	38

## INSURANCE SECTOR

KUT INSURANCE	0.750	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF INSURANCE	0.360	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.590	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
WARBA INS. CO.	0.460	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## REAL EST. SECTOR

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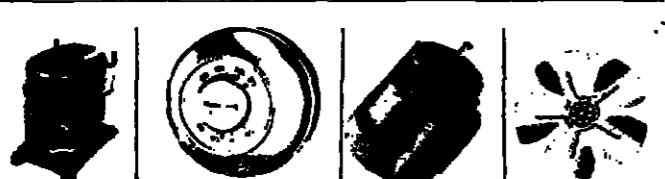
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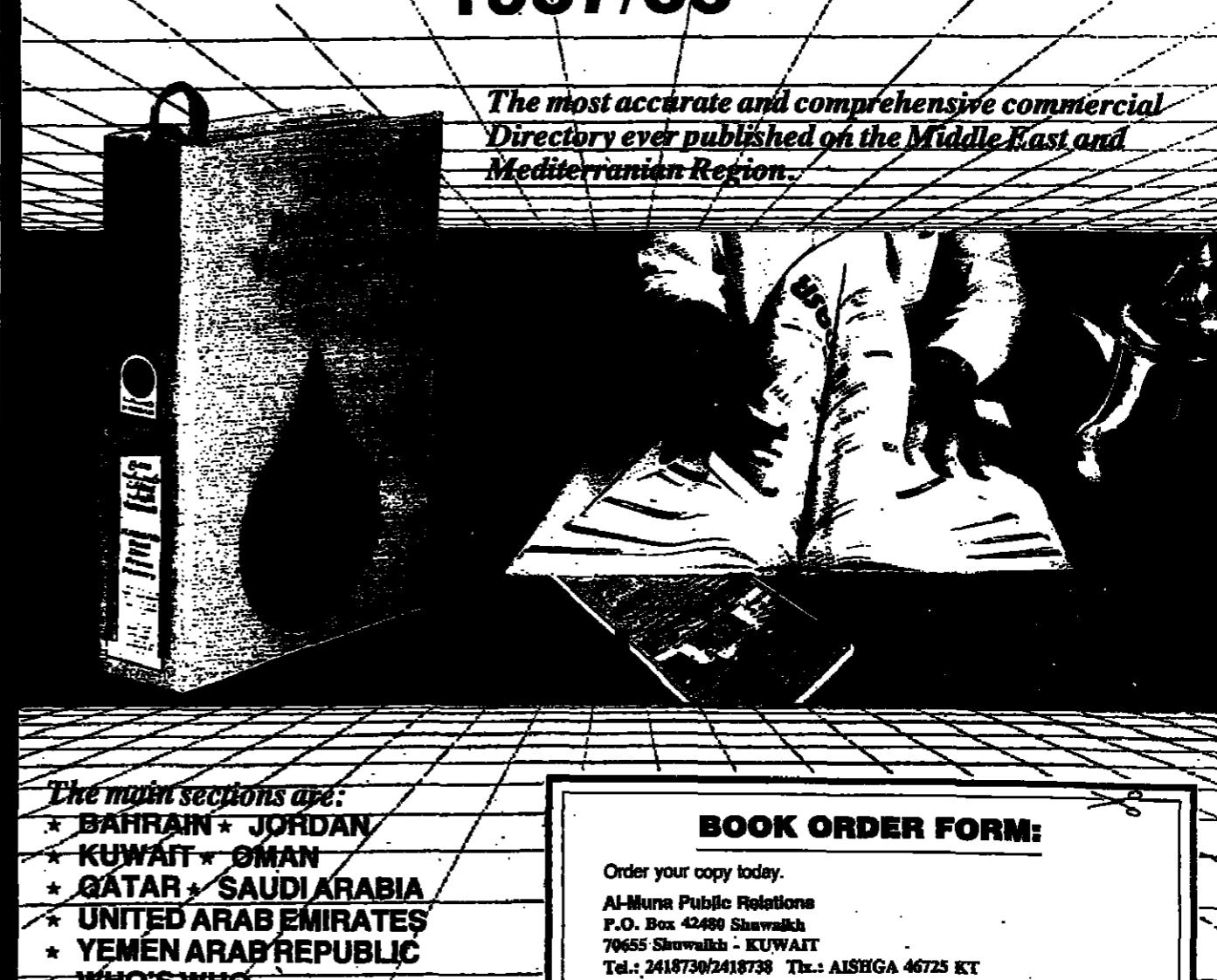
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## SPORTS

## BASEBALL ROUNDUP

**Mets take six-game lead in NL East**

NEW YORK, Aug. 7. (AP): Relief ace Jim Gott was hardly a stopper for the Pittsburgh Pirates last night.

Gott's Major League recording three balks in the eighth inning scored two runs and set up a third as the New York Mets opened up a six-game lead in the National League East by beating Pittsburgh 5-3.

All three balks were for failing to come to a stop.

The balks "were obvious, they were very flagrant. And I should know what a balk looks like as many times as our pitchers got called for them in the first 2 1/2 months," said Mets manager Davey Johnson. "They obviously were the big plays."

Pirates manager Jim Leyland was much more skeptical.

"I'm a professional and I'm not going to second guess the umpires' decisions," Leyland said. "But it's frustrating to a manager at times when a pitcher throws four pitches and gets called for a balk on the fifth. That's what I don't understand."

Other National League games saw Montreal nip St. Louis 5-4; Chicago beat Philadelphia 7-4; San Diego beat Cincinnati 4-1; Atlanta beat San Francisco 7-2; and Los Angeles beat Houston 5-3.

**A's 5, Mariners 4**

Jose Canseco has 40-40 vision.

The Major League home run leader became the 11th player in Major-League history to hit 30 home runs and steal 30 bases in the same year when he got his 30th stolen base yesterday in Oakland, a 5-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners. Canseco has 31 homers and is trying to become the first player to hit and steal 40 in the same season.

"It's very realistic, hitting nine homers in the next two months," Canseco said.

If you see the way he's hit his 30 home runs and stolen his 30 bases, the numbers have meant a lot," Oakland manager Tony La Russa said.

Canseco's steal led to the winning run. Dan Henderson led off the ninth with a single against Mike Jackson, 6-3. Canseco forced Henderson and stole second, went to third on Jackson's wild pickup throw and scored on Mark McGwire's sacrifice fly.

In other American League games, it was Detroit 4, Boston 2, Kansas City 11, Toronto 1, New York 5, Minnesota 3, Cleveland 5, Texas 3, Baltimore 7, Milwaukee 2, and California 7, Chicago 5.

**Expos 7, Cardinals 4**

Tom Foley hit a two-run triple, and Ottis Nixon added a two-run double as Montreal continued its hex over St. Louis. The Expos are 10-2 against the Cards this season and have won 11 of their last 13 games. They also have won 14 of their last 16 on the road.

**Cubs 7, Phillies 4**

Al Nipper allowed five hits in 5 1-3 innings to win for the first time since May 24 and reliever Pat Perry hit his first Major-League home run as Chicago defeated Philadelphia. Rafael Palmeiro extended his hitting streak to 16 games with an RBI single off Mike Maddux, 3-2, in the fifth inning.

**Dodgers 4, Red Sox 1**

Dennis Rasmussen allowed six hits in eight-plus innings to beat his former Cincinnati teammates for the third time since being traded June 8. Rasmussen, 10-7, retired the first 10 batters of the game, striking out the side in the second and third innings. The left-hander struck out eight and walked two to win for the eighth time in nine decisions with San Diego.

**Brewers 7, Giants 2**

Pete Smith allowed five hits in six innings to win for the first time since July 4 and Lonnie Smith singled twice and doubled to lead a 14-hit attack. It was Atlanta's third straight victory, tying its longest winning streak of the season.

**Dodgers 5, Astros 3**

Tim Belcher and Jay Howell combined on a seven-hitter as Los Angeles Dodgers increased its lead to 3 1-2 games over second-place Houston in the National League West.

**Tigers 4, Red Sox 2**

Matt Nokes hit a two-run homer and Doyle Alexander allowed seven hits as Detroit beat the Red Sox for the fourth straight time, matching Boston's longest losing streak this season. Detroit leads Boston by four games in the AL East.

**Yankees 5, Twins 3**

Rickey Henderson hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and stole three bases as New York stopped a four-game losing streak and ended the Minnesota's four-game winning string.

## SEGUSO MAKES MCENROE FIGHT FOR VICTORY

**Becker struggles past Witsken**

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 7. (UPI): Top-seeded Boris Becker and fifth-seeded John McEnroe claimed difficult victories yesterday to advance to the final of the US Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Becker, who has not played a seeded for in the tournament, struggled in eliminating local favorite Todd Witsken 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. McEnroe, trying to regain the form that led him to four US Open titles and three Wimbledon crowns, defeated 15th-seeded Robert Seguso 7-5, 6-3.

**Emerged**

The final at the Indianapolis Sports Centre this evening was to be the first match between Becker and McEnroe since a marathon Davis Cup encounter last year. Becker emerged a 4-6, 15-13, 8-10, 6-2, 6-2, winner in 6 hours and 20 minutes, the second-longest match in Davis Cup history.

"To play McEnroe is always special, no matter what round. It would make a win even sweeter," said Becker, who has won two of their three meetings. "Whenever former No. 1 players meet, it's a tough match."

McEnroe seeks his 72nd singles title, which would match Ivan Lendl for second on the all-



Becker heads for the ground after making a return to Witsken. (Reuter wirephoto)

time list... Jimmy Connors, eliminated by Seguso in the third round, has the most tournament crowns in tennis history with 106. McEnroe's last title came at a Tokyo tournament in April, his only

other hard court appearance this year.

"I'm looking forward to playing him to see how I'm playing and where I stand," McEnroe said. "I feel it's within me to win,

risk any extravagant strokeplay. A sudden splash of Caribbean sunshine, almost the first of a lamentable summer, has accompanied the match so far and the weather is forecast to remain good for the remainder.

The likelihood is that the game will be over soon after lunch on the fourth day with West Indies winning their sixth successive series against England without suffering a single defeat.

England lost their three home series against West Indies before this one 3-0, 1-0 and 5-0 and in their last two visits to the Caribbean have been beaten 2-0 and 5-0.

Defeat here tomorrow will mean that in the last 29 Tests between the two teams, West Indies will have won 20 with the other nine drawn.

Scores: England 205 and 202, West Indies 183 and 71 for no wicket.

**Yielded**

Greenidge's dashing effort contrasted with Graham Gooch's seven-hour innings for England which yielded 84 runs. For 70 minutes yesterday morning Gooch failed to score a run.

But in the context of the limitations of England's batting overall, the pace of Gooch's innings was excusable. He knew that he was the only player capable of a big score and could not

the remaining runs to take the series 4-0.

Well though the fast bowlers — Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose and Winston Benjamin for West Indies and Neil Foster

for England — have performed, the only explanation for England's 205 in the first innings being the highest total so far can be that the batting has been unexceptional.

Unexceptional is that until Greenidge went to work yesterday with a succession of break-taking strokes. He put on 50 in 19 overs with Desmond Haynes and his unbeaten half-century included nine fours.

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**W. Indies poised for 14th win in 15 Tests**

LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuters): West Indies are poised to win the fifth and final cricket Test at the Oval tomorrow despite being required to make the highest total of the match to beat England for the 14th time in 15 Tests.

Gordon Greenidge's powerful, unbeaten 53 yesterday evening, carrying West Indies to 71 without loss in pursuit of their victory target of 225, supported the view that much of the earlier batting had been sub-standard.

The Oval pitch has been faultless — offering all the bowlers something to work with while creating a true batting surface — and it now seems a formality that West Indies will score the remaining runs to take the series 4-0.

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**England and West Indies battle chasers**

LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuters): A captain's innings of 66 not out by Phil Neale and effective pace bowling from Phil Newport helped injury-hit Worcestershire sustain their challenge for the County Cricket Championship yesterday.

Third-placed Worcestershire — 35 points behind leaders Kent but with a game in hand — were 33 runs ahead of Sussex with six wickets in hand at the end of the opening day of their three-day game at Kidderminster.

Worcestershire were without England fast bowler Graham Dilley, who has knee trouble, while paceman Neal Radford limped out of the attack with a thigh strain after taking two for 29, but Newport rose to the occasion.

The fast-medium bowler captured five for 62 as Sussex were

dismissed for 146, while Neale's sensible batting helped to consolidate. He hit six 10 fours.

Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence, the English-born son of West Indian parents, was involved in an angry outburst with a group of Yorkshire fans at Cheltenham.

Complaining at their racial taunts, Lawrence pointed at the group and shouted: "I'll see you all later."

Play stopped for a minute as a steward, followed by police, warned the group of drinkers they would be ejected unless they kept quiet.

West Indian cricketers, including Viv Richards, have been subjected to racial abuse at Yorkshire grounds.

**Scores**

At Weston-Super-Mare: Derbyshire 324 for eight (R. Sharma 80, B.

Roberts 62, A. Warner 45 not out) v. Somerset.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire 235 in 107.1 overs (M. Watkinson 50, M. Atherton 42, R. Fraser four for 37), Middlesex 49 for three off 17.4 overs.

At Cheltenham: Yorkshire 367 for eight declared in 100.4 overs (D. Byas 112, P. Carrick 81, R. Blahey 40, T. Alderman three for 52), Gloucestershire 21 for no wicket off seven overs.

At Swanscombe: Surrey 298 for eight (D. Ward 126, K. Medleycott 43) v. Glamorgan.

At Kidderminster: Sussex 146 in 47.3 overs (T. Gould 60, P. Newport five for 62). Worcestershire 179 for four off 39 overs (F. Neale 66 not out, M. Weston 42 not out).

At Leicestershire: Lancashire 298 in 100.3 overs (P. Willey 98, S. Jeffreys five for 126), Hampshire 10 for one off six overs.

At Eddington: Northamptonshire 261 in 89.3 overs (M. Gouldstone 50, W. Larkins 49, A. Walker 40 not out, A. Merrick four for 85, D. Reeve three for 55), Warwickshire 73 for no wicket (A. Lloyd 44 not out).

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## Egypt sacks coach after Cup defeat

CAIRO, Aug 7, (Reuter): Egypt, reeling under a string of humiliating soccer setbacks, has dismissed its national coach for the second time this year, football federation chairman Ibrahim Al Gowaini said today.

"We have decided to thank captain (Fouad) Sedki for his services up to August 6," Gowaini told Reuters. The decision was taken after a five-hour debate on the future of Egyptian soccer.

Egypt came only third in the fifth Arab Cup tournament in Amman last month following a 4-3 defeat by Syria in a penalty shootout. It was the latest in a series of losses which have caused anguish to local fans over the past 12 months.

Gowaini said the federation was now considering a replacement for Sedki. He did not rule out the possibility of bringing in a foreign coach.

### Posse

The evening newspaper Al Massa reported that the federation might contact soccer authorities in the Soviet Union, East Germany and Yugoslavia about a possible candidate.

Sedki, a former international, became coach in April in place of Mike Smith, a Briton who was fired after Egypt, the defending champions, were eliminated in the first round of the African Nations' Cup final in Morocco.

A humiliating home defeat by Tunisia last year cost Egypt a place at this year's summer Olympic Games in Seoul.

The country's highest sports organisation dissolved the football federation in May and appointed a new one headed by Gowaini. He was ordered to draft a plan to raise standard of the national team.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Annual match

LONDON, Aug 7, (Reuter): Hooliganism threatens to strike the annual England-Scotland match off the international soccer calendar. The teams have played regularly since 1884 but a meeting between the English and Scottish soccer authorities may decide to scrap the encounter.

#### Yacht race

HONOLULU, Aug 7, (Reuter): An international yacht race that will start at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, and end in Hiroshima, Japan, is set for next year, a race organiser said yesterday — the 43rd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the United States.

#### Barcelona captain

ARNHEM, Holland, Aug 7, (UPI): Alexane Ventosa, captain of Spanish Soccer League club Barcelona, will appear before a public prosecutor tomorrow on charges of rape, but he has denied the accusation, his lawyer said.

#### US Open

MEDINA, Illinois, Aug 7, (AP): Bob Charles shot a 70 and defending champion Gary Player had a 71, two of only five sub-par rounds yesterday, to share the third-round led at the US Senior Open.

#### Overall lead

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Aug 7, (AP): Phil Anderson of Australia held the overall lead after the fifth stage of the six-day Tour of Denmark professional cycling race yesterday.

#### Independence Cup

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug 7, (AP): Australia's junior team defeated Indonesia's B team 1-0 while China held Indonesia A to a 1-1 score today, the second day of the Independence Cup soccer tournament.

#### Norway Cup

OSLO, Norway, Aug 7, (AP): Brazilian team Pequenos do Jockey de São Paulo beat Mjøndalen of Norway 2-0 (1-0) in the finals yesterday in the class for boys aged 17 in Norway Cup, the world's largest youth soccer tournament involving 20,000 boys and girls representing 1,100 clubs in 19 countries.

#### Sri Lanka score

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 7, (Reuter): Scores on the second day of the three-day cricket match between Nottinghamshire and Sri Lanka at Trent Bridge today.

Sri Lanka first innings 307 for seven declared (8. Kuruppu 158, R. Madugalle 72).

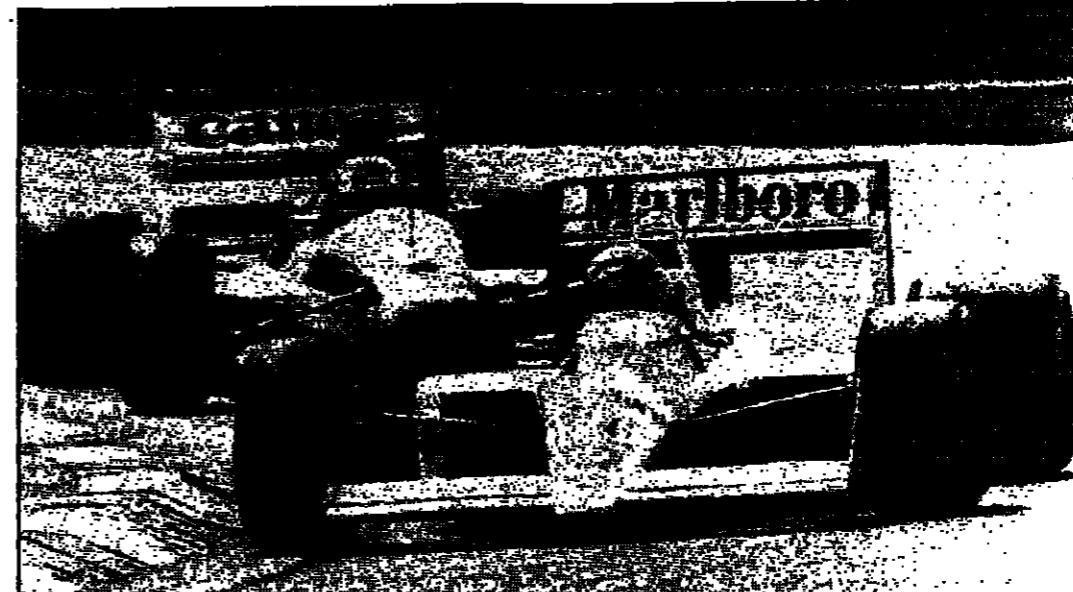
Nottinghamshire 250 for five declared. (C. Broad 73).

## BRAZILIAN ACE REPLACES PROST AS CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER

# Senna speeds to victory in Hungarian GP



Prost (left) almost disappears behind a champagne shower given by Senna (centre) while Boutsen gets ready to open his bottle. (Reuter wirephoto)



Senna leading Mansell at the start of the race. (Reuter wirephoto)

and 1984, and first in the standings, led for virtually the entire race, allowing Prost only a fleeting taste of the lead on the 49th lap when he was overtaken as they lapped Italian Gabriele Tarquini's Coloni at the end of the race.

Prost passed Senna and led for a few seconds but could not hold his line and the Brazilian, hungry for his first world title, retaliated immediately by regaining the lead.

Prost, world champion in 1985

and 1986, started from pole position, led in the battle for the drivers' title on 66 points after 10 of the season's 16 races, but the Brazilian leads because he has won six times compared to Prost's four. It was Senna's 12th career win and his fifth success in the last six races.

**Compared**

His victory hoisted him level with Prost in the battle for the drivers' title on 66 points after 10 of the season's 16 races, but the Brazilian leads because he has won six times compared to Prost's four.

Senna, driving with great confidence, finished the physically demanding 76-lap race on the twisting Hungaroring circuit just half a second ahead of Prost after nearly two hours of close competition in hot sunshine.

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## Coe faces Olympic knock-out

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 7, (Reuter): Olympic champion Sebastian Coe appeared to have lost all hope of defending his 1,500 metres title in Seoul next month when he was eliminated in the heats at the British Olympic trials yesterday.

Coe, the only man to win two Olympic 1,500-metre gold medals, struggled to fourth place in his heat and failed to qualify for today's final, shredding his dreams of a third Olympic title.

**Heart**

With the first two in each final earmarked for Seoul, only a major change of heart by the British Amateur Athletics Board could rescue the 31-year-old middle-distance star.

The selectors have the power to award "discretionary" third spots in the squad, but Coe's claims looked slim after yesterday's dismal showing.

Former world champion Steve Cram, who skipped the 1,500 metre trial, appeared assured of the third slot at that distance and a shot at an Olympic double after

his heat in 3:43.98.

"I was really pleased with that.

It's beginning to come back, although it was still only a heat."

Ovett, who beat Coe for the 1980 Olympic 800 metres title in Moscow, said:

Elliott had no sympathy for Coe. "I can't feel sorry for Seb. It's a competitive business and no one would feel sorry for me if I went out. Obviously this gives me a better chance than Seb of getting the last 800 metres place," he said.

"There was nothing there. Everything has been going well in training, but when I tried to respond at 1100 metres I had nothing to offer," Coe, whose season has been interrupted by injury, said.

There was a touch of irony in his failure when, in the next heat, old rival Steve Ovett produced just the sort of finishing burst

Coe lacked.

Ovett has had a miserable

season, but this time he was waving and blowing kisses to the crowd in his old style as he won

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